



Austro-Hungarian
Orders, Medals and Decorations
Volume I: Orders
Part III



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Table of Contents

Part I

Introduction.....	3
Order of the Golden Fleece (1431-)	4
Order of the Golden Fleece, Collar (1431-)	29
Order of the Golden Fleece, Order Heralds Collar (1431-).....	40
Order of the Golden Fleece, Decoration of the Roy d'armes (1431-).....	43
Military Maria Theresia Order (1757-1931)	46
Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan (1764-1931)	82
Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephan, Collar (1764-1931).....	132

Part II

Austrian Imperial Leopold Order (1808-1919)	141
Austrian Imperial Leopold Order, Collar (1808-1919).....	233
Austrian Imperial Leopold Order, Officials Medal (1808-1919).....	242

Part III

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown (1816-1918)	250
Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown, Collar (1816-1918)	337
Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown, Officials Medal (1816-1918)	346
Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown, Military Merit Medal (1816).....	349

Part IV

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order (1849-1919).....	353
The High Nobles Star Cross Order (1668-Present)	436
Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Order (1898-1918)	450





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Date Issued: This order was originally established as the Imperial Order of the Iron Crown on May 20th, 1805 by Napoleon Bonaparte (under his title of King Napoleon I of Italy). It took its name from the ancient "iron crown", a medieval jeweled crown with an iron band on the inside of the lower portion of the crown, forged from a nail, believed to be from the cross on which Christ was crucified. The Napoleonic order was disbanded in 1814 with the fall of the empire. The order was re-established in a new form as an Austrian order on April 7, 1815 and confirmed on January 1, 1816 by Emperor Franz I of Austria, following Napoleon's defeat and the incorporation of the province of Lombardy into the Austrian Empire. The addition of Lombardy occurred as a result of the Congress of Vienna that took place in 1814-1815. This order continued to be issued until November 11, 1918.

Reason Issued: This order was originally issued as an award for service in the Italian provinces of the Austrian Empire. Subsequently it became an award for service to the Austrian Empire and was issued to honor special civil or military merit or personal bravery. It was also intended as a general service order for Austrians for outstanding accomplishments. It was often awarded for service in the Italian portions of the Austrian Empire. It could be awarded to foreigners. The class of the order which was received was often determined by the status of the recipient rather than the act for which it was awarded. It should be noted that during World War I the award tended to be used as a bravery decoration for commissioned officers as opposed to its original function as an order for both distinguished military and civil service.

Classes or Types: This order was issued in three classes and a collar as a special distinction. Thus the order exists in the following forms: as a collar of the order with a first class knight badge; Knight First Class, (first class badge on grand cordon with star); Knight Second Class, (neck badge) and Knight third class (Knight badge on chest ribbon). The insignia could also be issued in diamonds as a special sign of the Emperors favor. There were ultimately two divisions of the order: military and civil and within the military division there were two grades: badges with war decoration and with war decoration and swords.

The classes of the award from January 1, 1816 to February 12, 1860 were:

- Knight First Class of the Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown
- Knight Second Class of the Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown
- Knight Third Class of the Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

The classes and grades of the award from January 12, 1860 to December 13, 1916:

- Knight First class of the of the Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown with war decoration
- Knight First class of the of the Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown with war decoration of a lower class
- Knight First class of the Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown
- Knight Second Class of the Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown with war decoration
- Knight Second Class of the Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown with war decoration third class
- Knight Second Class of the Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown
- Knight Third Class of the Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown with war decoration
- Knight Third Class of the Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

The classes and grades of the award after December 13, 1916:

- Knight First class of the of the Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown with war decoration and swords
- Knight First Class of the of the Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown with war decoration, and swords of a lower class
- Knight First Class of the of the Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown with war decoration
- Knight First Class of the of the Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown with war decoration of a lower class and, swords of a lower class
- Knight First Class of the of the Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown with war decoration of a lower class
- Knight First Class of the of the Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown
- Knight Second Class of the Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown with war decoration and swords
- Knight Second Class of the Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown with war decoration and third class swords
- Knight Second Class of the Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown with war decoration
- Knight Second Class of the Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown with war decoration third class and, swords third class
 - Knight Second Class of the Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown with war decoration third class





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

The classes and grades of the award after December 13, 1916 (Continued):

- Knight Second Class of the Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown
- Knight Third Class with war decoration and swords
- Knight Third Class with war decoration
- Knight Third Class

During World War I this order was available in three Classes which comprised 15 variations with and without war decoration and with and without swords. The addition of the swords was authorized on December 13, 1917.

(Note: When an insignia class title and description found below is in **bold** these are awards that were **not issued**)

Note: On February 17, 1918 A second award of the Second and third Class badge with war decoration and swords was authorized. No awards of this insignia are known to have been issued.

Insignia Classes and Grades during WWI

Knight First class of the of the Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

- Knight First class with war decoration and swords (December 13, 1916-1918): First Class badge with war decoration in the form of green enameled laurel wreath arising from the “Iron Crown” and following the counters of the eagle’s wings and gold crossed swords attached to the banderols of the imperial crown at the top of the badge. The badge is accompanied by a Knight First Class Star with war decoration (gilt laurel wreath passing below the tips of the star) and swords (crossed gold swords passing below the center medallion on the star)
- Knight First class with war decoration, and swords of a lower class (December 13, 1916-1918): Knight First Class badge with war decoration in the form of green enameled laurel wreath arising from the “Iron Crown” and following the counters of the eagle’s wings and **silver** crossed swords attached to the banderols of the imperial crown at the top of the badge. The badge is accompanied by a Knight First Class Star with war decoration (gilt laurel wreath passing below the tips of the star) and swords of a lower class (crossed **silver** swords passing below the center medallion on the star)
- Knight First class with war decoration (January 12, 1860 -1918): Knight First Class badge with war decoration in the form of a green enameled laurel wreath arising from the “Iron Crown” and following the counters of the eagle’s wings. The badge is accompanied by a Knight First Class Star with war decoration (gilt laurel wreath passing below the tips of the star).





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

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Image attributed to Vaclav Mericka, Orden Und Ehrenzeichen, Anton Schroll & Co

Knight First class of the of the Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown (continued)

- Knight First Class with war decoration of a lower class and swords of a lower class (December 13, 1916-1918): Knight First Class badge with war decoration of a lower class (a green enameled laurel wreath around the blue enameled shield with the letter **F** on the obverse of the badge) and **silver** crossed swords attached to the banderols of the imperial crown at the top of the badge. The badge is accompanied by a Knight First Class star with war decoration of a lower class (a gilt or green enameled wreath surrounding the center medallion on the star) and swords of a lower class (**silver** crossed swords passing below the badge on the star)
- Knight First Class with war decoration of a lower class (January 12, 1860 -1918): Knight First Class badge with war decoration of a lower class (a green enameled laurel wreath around the blue enameled shield with the letter **F** on the obverse of the badge). The badge is accompanied by a Knight First Class star with war decoration of a lower class (a gilt or green enameled wreath surrounding the center medallion on the star)
- Knight First Class (1816-1918): Knight First Class badge accompanied by a Knight First Class star

Knight Second Class:

- **Knight Second class with war decoration and swords and second award wreath (February 17, 1918): Knight Second Class badge with war decoration in the form of a green enameled laurel wreath arising from the “Iron Crown” and following the counters of the eagle’s wings and gold crossed swords attached to the banderols of the imperial crown at the top of the badge. Attached to the suspension ring is an additional 12 mm green enameled wreath (denoting a second award of the badge with war decoration)**
- Knight Second class with war decoration and swords (December 13, 1916-1918): Knight Second Class badge with war decoration in the form of green enameled laurel wreath arising from the “Iron Crown” and following the counters of the eagle’s wings and gold crossed swords attached to the banderols of the imperial crown at the top of the badge.





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

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Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Knight Second Class (Continued)

- Knight Second class with war decoration and third class swords (December 13, 1916-1918): Knight Second Class badge with war decoration in the form of a green enameled laurel wreath arising from the “Iron Crown” and following the counters of the eagle’s wings and **silver** crossed swords attached to the banderols of the imperial crown at the top of the badge.
- Knight Second class with war decoration (January 12, 1860 -1918): Knight Second Class badge with war decoration in the form of a green enameled laurel wreath arising from the “Iron Crown” and following the counters of the eagle’s wings.
- Knight Second Class with war decoration third class and swords third class (December 13, 1916-1918): Knight Second Class badge with war decoration of a lower class (a green enameled laurel wreath around the blue enameled shield with the letter **F** on the obverse of the badge) and **silver** crossed swords attached to the banderols of the imperial crown at the top of the badge.
- Knight Second Class with war decoration third class (January 12, 1860 -1918): Knight Second Class badge with war decoration of a lower class (a green enameled laurel wreath around the blue enameled shield with the letter **F** on the obverse of the badge).
- Knight Second Class (1816-1918): a Knight Second Class badge.

Knight Third Class:

- Knight Third Class badge with second award bar on the ribbon and war decoration and swords (February 17, 1918): A knight badge on tri-fold ribbon with a war decoration in the form of green enameled laurel wreath arising from the “Iron Crown” and following the counters of the eagle’s wings. **On the ribbon is a rhomboid shape metal bar on which is placed swords.**
- Knight Third Class badge with war decoration and swords (December 13, 1916-1918): A knights badge on tri-fold ribbon with a war decoration in the form of a green enameled laurel wreath arising from the “Iron Crown” and following the counters of the eagle’s wings and gilt crossed swords on the ribbon.





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Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Knight Third Class (continued):

- Knight Third Class with war decoration (January 12, 1860 -1918): A knight badge on tri-fold ribbon with a war decoration in the form of a green enameled laurel wreath arising from the “Iron Crown” and following the counters of the eagle’s wings.
- Knight Third Class (1816-1918): A knight badge on straight or tri-fold ribbon

Interesting Facts:

- Napoleon Bonaparte as King Napoleon I of Italy created the order as French award at Milan on June 5 1805.
- The Emperor of Austria was the Grand Master of the Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown. Other order officers were the Prelate, Chancellor, the Treasurer, the Secretary, the Herold and the Chancery Clerk
- There was attached to the order an Iron Crown Medal for non-commissioned officers and men: This medal was issued on February 12, 1816 to those enlisted personnel and commoners who had been awarded the French Order of the Iron Crown. This was done because the Austrian Order of the Iron Crown was reserved for officers and those occupying the upper levels of Austrian and Italian Society.
- The Emperor personally conferred these orders.
- This order in 1816 was sometimes awarded on a chain of gold links some of which were enameled rather than on a ribbon.
- Persons receiving the order after June 3, 1823 could be granted an annual pension. Knight, First Class recipients received 300 ducats, Knight Second Class 150 ducats, and Knight, Third Class 50 ducats.
- The order had a special uniform for each class of recipient which was worn at until October 14, 1838.
- The order festival day was the first Sunday after April 7th, the foundation day of the Lombardy Venetian Empire.
- The order chapel was in Vienna.
- Until July, 18, 1884 Knights, First Class were entitled to membership in the Privy Council and were addressed by the emperor as cousin. Knights, Second class were entitled to enter the Privy Council chamber and to the title Freiherr (Baron) and Knights, Third class were allowed to enter the Privy Council chamber and were called Knight.
- Recipients of this order were exempted from taxation.
 - In WWI this order became the primary bravery award for officers
 - Officers in the rank of Oberst with three years of successful service were often awarded the Knight third class of this order.





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

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Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Interesting Facts (Continued):

- More of these orders were awarded than any other Austro-Hungarian order in World War I
- King Karl made the last award of the Knight First Class of the order on November 11, 1918 to the Vienna Police Chief Johann Schober.
- Most of these badges have an iron insert in the crown.
- Those wishing to receive the award had to apply for it
- The First Austrian award of this order took place in Milan on February 12, 1816
- One could wear under certain circumstances both the Napoleonic and Austrian Iron Crown Order so long as the French order was worn with Napoleons image turned against the wearers chest
- The crown incorporated into the Austrian order is not the Lombard Iron Crown but rather the Theodolinde diadem believed to have been worn by the Lombard Queen Theodolinde.
- After Austria no longer had possessions in Italy and with the treaty of October 3, 1866 it was agreed that the Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown would be discontinued in Austria after the death of Emperor Franz Joseph. When Franz Joseph died in 1916 this understanding was abrogated given that Austro-Hungary was at war with Italy.
- The Grand Masters of the Order were:
Franz I Emperor of Austria 1816-1838
Ferdinand I Emperor of Austria 1838-1848
Franz Joseph I Emperor of Austria 1848-1916
Karl I Emperor of Austria 1916-1918
- Jeweled versions of the badge could only be issued by the Chancellor of the Order and were not a higher class but rather a personal sign of the appreciation of the Emperor
- The insignia of the order was to be returned to the order chancellery upon the death of the recipient. After 1864 knight third class badges no longer needed to be returned.
- A second award of the knight first and second class which was to be indicated by a wreath above the crown of the badge was authorized on October 17 and February 17, 1918 respectively and for the knight third class to be indicated by a metal bar on the ribbon. The third class award was also authorized on February 17, 1918. There is no evidence that any of these awards were issued.
- There were only eight Austro-Hungarian awards authorized by statute to be issued in a jeweled version: The Order of the Golden Fleece, The Military Order of Maria Theresia, The Order of St. Stephan, the Order of Leopold, The Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown, (although the statutes of this order authorize the wearing of jeweled insignia with the permission of the emperor there are no known authorized examples of this insignia), the Military Merit Cross the Elisabeth Order and the Civil Merit Cross. In each case they were issued to indicate the special regard of the emperor.
- The order motto was Avita et Aucta (Ancient and Getting Better)





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Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Hallmarks: Hallmarks were introduced in Austria-Hungary in the late 18th/early 19th century. Thus when the Austrian Order of the Iron Crown was established in 1815 there were no standardized hallmarks. The first hallmarks that applied to the Order of the Iron Crown were introduced in 1867 and later modified in 1872.

Among the hallmarks found on examples of the Order of the Iron Crown are:

- The 1872-1922 580 fine gold hallmark
- The 1860 and earlier 750 gold hallmark
- The 1867-1872 750 fine gold mark
- The 1872-1922 750 fine gold mark
- 1872-1922 small article 900 fine silver hallmark
- 1867 - 1872 small article 800 fine silver hallmark
- 1872 - 1922 small article 800 fine silver hallmark
- The base metal star
- The 1866-1872 tax exemption stamp for 750 fine gold items
- The 1890-1922 tax release stamp
- The 1890-1921 Vienna Assay Office mark
- Mark of Fredrich Rotha
- The Mark of Gebruder Resch (Found on the 1860 type badge)
- The Mark of Carl Frederick Rothe & Neffe (1850-1918)
- The Mark of Christian Friedrich Rothe (1844-1850)
- The Mark of Vincent Mayer and Sons (1810-1918)
- The mark of Rosette and Fishmeister (1880-1918)
- The mark of Wilhelm Kunz
- The mark of Hans Ulbrecht Witwe (1914-1918) (found on miniature insignia)
- The mark of Alexander Kochert, Vienna (1814-1918) (Badge in diamonds)





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Image from Pinterest

Design:

Badge (1816-1918): a two headed Austrian imperial eagle with spread wings and with closed talons. In the right talon, from the viewer's perspective, the eagle holds an upward pointing sword, in the left the orb of the realm. The eagle has crowned heads, which are surmounted by a larger Austrian Imperial Crown with banderols. Under the eagle is a slightly curved diadem, which does not depict the Iron Crown of Lombardi, but another crown found in the cathedral treasure of Monza, the so-called Theodolindenkrone (Theodolinda Crown). The circumference of the crown is enameled in such a way as to emphasize the jewels and the enamel is on both sides of the crown. On the front chest of the eagle is attached a gothic plaque with the golden flowing letter **F**. (FRANCISCUS) and on the back of the eagle a similar plaque with the date **1815**. A suspension ring is attached to the crown above the eagle.

Obverse:

- **1816 - 1918 Knight badge in all classes:** an Austrian imperial eagle with spread wings and with closed talons. The eagle holds in its right talon, from the viewer's perspective, an upward pointing sword which passes in front of the wing of the eagle, in the left talon the orb of the realm. The eagle has crowned heads, which are surmounted by a gold and red enamel crown with banderols. Under the eagle is a slightly curved Theodolinda crown. The circumference of the crown is enameled in such a way as to emphasize the jewels and the enamel equally. On the chest of the eagle is a gothic blue enameled shield with the golden flowing letter **F**. (Franciscus). A suspension ring is attached to the orb of the crown above the eagle.
- **January 12, 1860 -1918 First and Second Class Knight badge with war decoration of a lower class:** a two headed Austrian imperial eagle with spread wings and with closed talons. In its right talon the, from the viewer's perspective, eagle holds an upward pointing sword which passes in front of the wing of the eagle, in the left talon the orb of the realm. The eagle has crowned heads, which are surmounted by a gold and red enamel crown with banderols. Under the eagle is a slightly curved Theodolinda crown. The circumference of the crown is enameled in such a way as to emphasize the jewels and the enamel equally. On the chest of the eagle is a gothic blue enameled shield with the golden flowing letter **F**. (Franciscus) surrounded by a green enameled wreath. A suspension ring is attached to the orb of the crown above the eagle.





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

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Obverse (Continued):

- **December 13, 1916-1918: First and Second Class Knight badge with war decoration of a lower class and swords of a lower class:** a two headed Austrian imperial eagle with spread wings and with closed talons. In the eagle's right talon, from the viewer's perspective, is an upward pointing sword which passes in front of the wing of the eagle, in the left talon the orb of the realm. The eagle has crowned heads, which are surmounted by a gold and red enamel crown with banderols. Attached to the banderols of the imperial crown are crossed **silver** swords. Under the eagle is a slightly curved Theodolinda crown. The circumference of the crown is enameled in such a way as to emphasize the jewels and the enamel equally. On the chest of the eagle is a gothic blue enameled shield with the golden flowing letter **F**. (Franciscus) surrounded by a green enameled wreath. A suspension ring is attached to the orb of the crown above the eagle.
- **January 12, 1860 -1918 Knight in all classes badge with war decoration:** a two headed Austrian imperial eagle with spread wings and with closed talons. In its right talon, from the viewer's perspective, the eagle holds an upward pointing sword which passes in front of the wing of the eagle, in the left talon the orb of the realm. The eagle has crowned heads, which are surmounted by a gold and red enamel crown with banderols. Under the eagle is a slightly curved Theodolinda crown. The circumference of the crown is enameled in such a way as to emphasize the jewels and the enamel equally. On the chest of the eagle is a gothic blue enameled shield with the golden flowing letter **F**. (Franciscus). Green enameled laurel boughs arise from the "Iron Crown" and follow the counters of the eagle's wings thus forming a wreath. A suspension ring is attached to the orb of the crown above the eagle.



Image courtesy of Dorotheum





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Obverse (continued):

- **December 13, 1916-1918: Knight First and Second Class badge with war decoration, and swords of a lower class:** a two headed Austrian imperial eagle with spread wings and with closed talons. In its right talon, from the viewer's perspective, the eagle holds an upward pointing sword which passes in front of the wing of the eagle, and in its left talon the orb of the realm. The eagle has crowned heads, which are surmounted by a gold and red enamel crown with banderols. Attached to the banderols of the imperial crown are crossed **silver** swords. Under the eagle is a slightly curved Theodolinda crown. The circumference of the crown is enameled in such a way as to emphasize the jewels and the enamel equally. On the chest of the eagle is a gothic blue enameled shield with the golden flowing letter **F**. (Franciscus). Green enameled laurel boughs arise from the "Iron Crown" and follow the counters of the eagle's wings thus forming a wreath. A suspension ring is attached to the orb of the crown above the eagle.
- **December 13, 1916-1918: Knight First and Second Class badge with war decoration and swords:** a two headed Austrian imperial eagle with spread wings and closed in talons. In its right talon, from the viewer's perspective, the eagle holds an upward pointing sword which passes in front of the wing of the eagle, in its left talon the eagle holds the orb of the realm. The eagle has crowned heads, which are surmounted by a gold and red enamel crown with banderols. Attached to the banderols of the imperial crown are crossed **gold** swords. Under the eagle is a slightly curved Theodolinda crown. The circumference of the crown is enameled in such a way as to emphasize the jewels and the enamel equally. On the chest of the eagle is a gothic blue enameled shield with the golden flowing letter **F**. (Franciscus). Green enameled laurel boughs arise from the "Iron Crown" and follow the counters of the eagle's wings thus forming a wreath. A suspension ring is attached to the orb of the crown above the eagle.



Image courtesy of Dorotheum





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Image courtesy of Dorotheum



Image attributed to Vaclav Mericka, Orden Und Ehrenzeichen, Anton Schroll & Co

Obverse:

- **Circa 1816-January 30, 1847 Knight First Class bullion star:** A 93 mm in diameter eight pointed (5 rayed) blade cut silver bullion star with a 35-40 mm center medallion. The star is almost round in shape. The center medallion has in its center a circular golden background on which a curved Theodolinda Crown is placed. The crown is enameled to represent the jewels of the original crown. A blue ring surrounds the center medallion. The blue ring has within it a gold crossed boughs ornament at the bottom and an inscription in gold **AVITA ET AUCTA:** (Ancient and Getting Better) at the top. A gold beaded inner and outer ring borders this blue enameled ring.
- **1816-Circa 1820 Knight First Class metal star:** A 90-92 mm (later 83 mm) eight pointed (8 rayed) blade cut silver metal star with a circular medallion in the center. The center medallion has in its center a circular golden background on which a curved Theodolinda Crown was placed with fine enamel, representing the jewels of the original crown. A green enameled ring surrounds the center medallion. The green ring has below it a gold oak wreath composed of two branches tied at the bottom with a ribbon which can be seen through the green enamel. A gold inner and outer ring borders this green ring.
- **January 30, 1847-May 24, 1877 Knight First Class metal star:** A 90-92 mm (later 83 mm) eight pointed (5 rayed) blade cut silver metal star with a circular medallion in the center. The center medallion has in its center a circular golden background on which a curved Theodolinda Crown was placed. The crown is enameled to represent the jewels of the original crown. A blue enameled ring surrounds the center medallion. The blue ring has on the bottom gold laurel boughs tied with a bow above which is an inscription in gold: **AVITA ET AUCTA:** (Ancient and Getting Better). A gold beaded inner and outer ring borders this blue enameled ring.



Image courtesy of Dorotheum





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Obverse:

- **May 24, 1877-1918 Knight First Class star:** An 82-83 mm eight pointed diamond cut silver star with a circular medallion in the center. The center medallion has in its center a circular golden background on which a curved Theodolinda Crown is placed. The crown is enameled to represent the jewels of the original crown. A blue enameled ring surrounds the center medallion. The blue ring has within it gold crossed boughs ornament at the bottom above which is an inscription in gold: **AVITA ET AUCTA:** (Ancient and Getting Better). A gold beaded inner and outer ring borders this blue enameled ring.
- **January 12, 1860 -May 24, 1877 Knight First Class star with war decoration of a lower class:** An 83 mm eight pointed blade cut (5 rayed) silver star with a circular medallion in the center. The center medallion has in its center a circular golden background on which is placed a curved Theodolinda Crown. The crown is enameled to represent the jewels of the original crown. A blue enameled ring surrounds the center medallion. The blue ring has within it a gold crossed boughs ornament at the bottom above which is an inscription in gold **AVITA ET AUCTA:** (Ancient and Getting Better). A gold beaded inner and outer ring borders this blue enameled ring. Around the center medallion is placed a green enameled gold oak wreath.



Image attributed to Vaclav Mericka, Orden Und Ehrenzeichen, Anton Schroll & Co





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Obverse:

- **May 24, 1877 -1918 Knight First Class star with war decoration of a lower class:** An 82-83 mm eight pointed diamond cut silver star with a circular medallion in the center. The center medallion has in its center a circular golden background on which a curved Theodolinda Crown. The crown is enameled to represent the jewels of the original crown. A blue enameled ring surrounds the center medallion. The blue ring has within it a gold crossed boughs ornament at the bottom and an inscription in gold: **AVITA ET AUCTA:** (Ancient and Getting Better) at the top. A gold beaded inner and outer ring borders this blue enameled ring. Around the center medallion is placed a green enameled (sometimes gold metal) laurel wreath.
- **December 13, 1916-1918: Knight First Class star with war decoration and swords of lower class:** An 82-83 mm eight pointed diamond cut silver star with a circular medallion in the center. The center medallion has in its center a circular golden background on which a curved Theodolinda Crown. The crown is enameled to represent the jewels of the original crown. A blue enameled ring surrounds the center medallion. The blue ring has within it a gold crossed boughs ornament at the bottom, above which is an inscription in gold: **AVITA ET AUCTA:** (Ancient and Getting Better). A gold beaded inner and outer ring borders this blue enameled ring. Around the center medallion is placed a green enameled (sometimes gold metal) laurel wreath. Passing through the center medallion are crossed **silver** swords.



Image attributed to Vaclav Mericka, Orden
Und Ehrenzeichen, Anton Schroll & Co





Orders of Knighthood

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Obverse:

- **January 12, 1860 -May 24, 1877 Knight First Class star with war decoration:** A 83 mm eight pointed (7 rayed) blade cut silver star with a circular medallion in the center. The center medallion has in its center a circular golden background on which a curved Theodolinda Crown. The crown is enameled to represent the jewels of the original crown. A blue enameled ring surrounds the center medallion. The blue ring has within it a gold laurel ornament at the bottom and an inscription in gold **AVITA ET AUCTA**: (Ancient and Getting Better) at the top. A gold beaded inner and outer ring borders this blue enameled ring. Passing below the tips of the star is a gilt laurel wreath.
- **May 24, 1877 -1918 Knight First Class star with war decoration:** An 82-83 mm eight pointed diamond cut silver star with a circular medallion in the center. The center medallion has in its center a circular golden background on which a curved Theodolinda Crown. The crown is enameled to represent the jewels of the original crown. A blue enameled ring surrounds the center medallion. The blue ring has within it a gold crossed boughs ornament at the bottom and an inscription in gold **AVITA ET AUCTA**: (Ancient and Getting Better) at the top. A gold beaded inner and outer ring borders this blue enameled ring. Passing below the tips of the star is a gilt laurel wreath.



Image courtesy of Dorotheum





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Obverse:

- **December 13, 1916-1918: Knight First Class star with war decoration, and swords of lower class:** An 82-83 mm eight pointed diamond cut silver star with a circular medallion in the center. The center medallion has in its center a circular golden background on which a curved Theodolinda Crown. The crown is enameled to represent the jewels of the original crown. A blue enameled ring surrounds the center medallion. The blue ring has within it a gold crossed boughs ornament at the bottom and an inscription in gold **AVITA ET AUCTA**: (Ancient and Getting Better) at the top. A gold beaded inner and outer ring borders this blue enameled ring. Passing below the tips of the star is a gilt laurel wreath. Passing under the badge in the center of the star is crossed **silver** swords.
- **December 13, 1916-1918: Knight First Class star with war decoration, and swords:** An 82-83 mm eight pointed diamond cut silver star with a circular medallion in the center. The center medallion has in its center a circular golden background on which a curved Theodolinda Crown. The crown is enameled to represent the jewels of the original crown. A blue enameled ring surrounds the center medallion. The blue ring has within it a gold crossed boughs ornament at the bottom and an inscription in gold **AVITA ET AUCTA**: (Ancient and Getting Better) at the top. A gold beaded inner and outer ring borders this blue enameled ring. Passing below the tips of the star is a gilt laurel wreath. Passing under the center badge on the star is crossed **gold** swords.



Image courtesy of Dorotheum





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Reverse:

- **1816-1918 Knight badge in all classes:** a two headed Austrian imperial eagle with spread wings and with closed talons. In the eagle's right talon, from the viewer's perspective, the eagle holds an upward pointing sword which passes in front of the wing of the eagle, in the left talon is the orb of the realm. The eagle has crowned heads, which are surmounted by a gold crown with banderols. In the later versions of the badge the crown has a red enamel liner. Under the eagle is a slightly curved Theodolinda crown. The circumference of the crown is enameled in such a way as to emphasize the jewels and the enamel equally. On the eagle is a blue enameled gothic shield with the date **1815** in gold. A suspension ring is attached to the orb of the crown above the eagle. Attached to the suspension ring is a second oblong gold ring with white enamel pearls for attaching the badge to the ribbon.
- **January 12, 1860 -1918 First and Second Class Knight badge with war decoration of a lower class:** a two headed Austrian imperial eagle with spread wings and with closed talons. In the eagle's right talon, from the viewer's perspective, the eagle holds an upward pointing sword which passes in front of the wing of the eagle, in the left talon the orb of the realm. The eagle has crowned heads, which are surmounted by a gold and red enamel crown with banderols. Under the eagle is a slightly curved Theodolinda crown. The circumference of the crown is enameled in such a way as to emphasize the jewels and the enamel equally. On the eagle is a blue enameled gothic shield with the date **1815** in gold. A suspension ring is attached to the orb of the crown above the eagle. Attached to the suspension ring is a second oblong gold ring with white enamel pearls for attaching the badge to the ribbon
- **December 13, 1916-1918: First and Second Class Knight badge with war decoration of a lower class and swords of a lower class:** a two headed Austrian imperial eagle with spread wings and closed in talons. In the eagle's right talon, from the viewer's perspective, the eagle holds an upward pointing sword which passes in front of the wing of the eagle, in its left talon the eagle holds the orb of the realm. The eagle has crowned heads, which are surmounted by a gold and red enamel crown with banderols. Attached to the banderols of the imperial crown are crossed **silver** swords. Under the eagle is a slightly curved Theodolinda crown. The circumference of the crown is enameled in such a way as to emphasize the jewels and the enamel equally. On the eagle is a blue enameled gothic shield with the date **1815** in gold. A suspension ring is attached to the orb of the crown above the eagle. Attached to the suspension ring is a second oblong gold ring with white enamel pearls for attaching the badge to the ribbon.





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Reverse:

- **January 12, 1860 -1918 Knight badge in all classes with war decoration:** a two headed Austrian imperial eagle with spread wings. In the eagle's right talon, from the viewer's perspective, is an upward pointing sword which passes in front of the wing of the eagle, in the left talon the orb of the realm. The eagle has crowned heads, which are surmounted by a gold and red enameled crown with banderols. Under the eagle is a slightly curved Theodolinda crown. The circumference of the crown is enameled in such a way as to emphasize the jewels and the enamel equally. On the eagles back is a blue enameled gothic shield with the date **1815** in gold. Green enameled laurel boughs arise from the "Iron Crown" and follow the counters of the eagle's wings thus forming a wreath. The war decoration reverse is sometimes metal and sometimes green enamel and metal. A suspension ring is attached to the orb of the crown above the eagle. Attached to the suspension ring is a second oblong gold ring with white enamel pearls for attaching the badge to the ribbon.
- **December 13, 1916-1918: Knight First and Second Class badge with war decoration and swords of a lower class:** a two headed Austrian imperial eagle with spread wings. In the eagle's right talon, from the viewer's perspective, is an upward pointing sword which passes in front of the eagle's wing, in the left talon is the orb of the realm. The eagle has crowned heads, which are surmounted by a gold and red enameled crown with banderols. Attached to the banderols of the imperial crown are crossed **silver** swords. Under the eagle is a slightly curved Theodolinda crown. The circumference of the crown is enameled in such a way as to emphasize the jewels and the enamel equally. On the eagle's back is a gothic blue enameled shield with the date **1815** in gold. Emanating from the top of the "Iron Crown" at the bottom of the badge is the reverse of a laurel wreath which passes upward along the edge of the eagle's wings. The war decoration reverse is sometimes metal and sometimes green enamel and metal. A suspension ring is attached to the orb of the crown above the eagle. Attached to the suspension ring is a second oblong gold ring with white enamel pearls for attaching the badge to the ribbon.
- **December 13, 1916-1918: Knight First and Second Class badge with war decoration and swords:** a two headed Austrian imperial eagle with spread wings. In the eagle's right talon, from the viewer's perspective, is an upward pointing sword which passes in front of the wing of the eagle, in the left talon is the orb of the realm. The eagle has crowned heads, which are surmounted by a gold and red enameled crown with banderols. Attached to the banderols of the imperial crown are crossed **gold** swords. Under the eagle is a slightly curved Theodolinda crown. The circumference of the crown is enameled in such a way as to emphasize the jewels and the enamel equally. On the eagle's back is a gothic blue enameled shield with the date **1815** in gold. Emanating from the top of the "Iron Crown" at the bottom of the badge is the reverse of the laurel wreath which passes upward along the edge of the eagle's wings. The war decoration reverse is sometimes metal and sometimes green enamel and metal. A suspension ring is attached to the orb of the crown above the eagle. Attached to the suspension ring is a second oblong gold ring with white enamel pearls for attaching the badge to the ribbon.

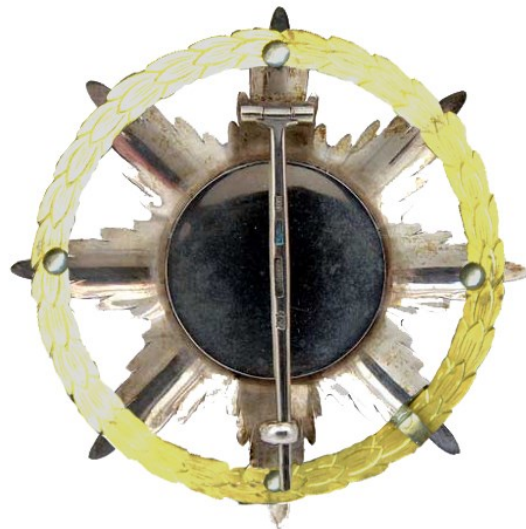
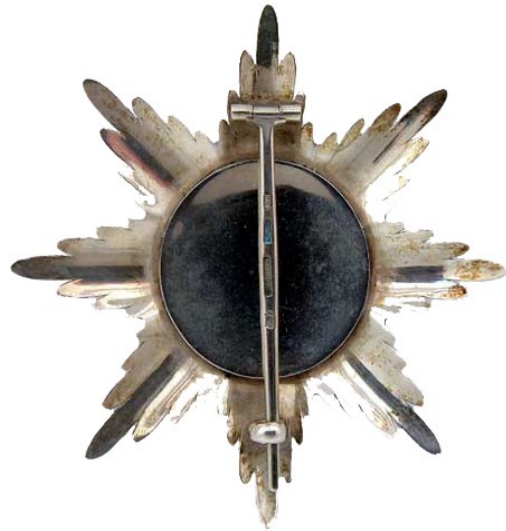




Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Reverse:

- **Circa 1816-January 30, 1847 Knight First Class bullion star:** A star with a plain cloth or a paper backing which in some cases bears the makers name or logo.
- **1816-May 24, 1877 Knight First Class metal star:** A plain silver reverse with a vertical pin for attaching the star to the uniform
- **January 12, 1860-May 24, 1877 Knight First Class star with war decoration:** A plain silver reverse with a vertical pin for attaching the star to the uniform. Attached to the arms of the star is a gilt laurel wreath





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)

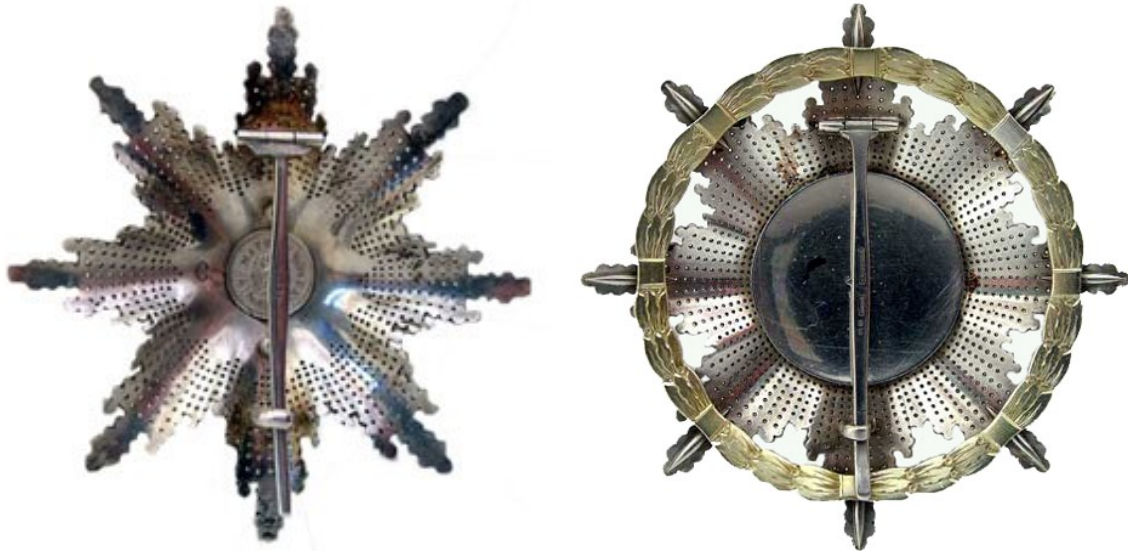


Image courtesy of Dorotheum



Reverse:

- **May 24, 1877-1918 Knight First Class star:** A plain silver pierced reverse with a vertical pin for attaching the star to the uniform. These stars sometimes have the makers name and or logo on the back
- **December 13, 1916-1918 Knight First Class with war decoration and war decoration and swords:** A plain silver pierced reverse with a vertical pin for attaching the star to the uniform. Attached to the arms of the star is a gilt engraved wreath. These stars sometimes have the makers name and or logo on the back





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)

Weight: Since the weight of orders can vary considerably depending on the materials of which it is made and the manufacturer who made it those listed below are typical ranges.

- Knight First Class badge in diamonds: Unknown
- Knight First Class badge 1816-Circa 1820: 15.3-28.2 grams including ribbon
- Knight First Class badge circa 1820-1860: 32.1-37 grams
- Knight First Class badge 1860-1918: 28.8-3 grams
- Knight First Class badge with war decoration January 12, 1860-1918: 34.8-40.8 grams
- Knight First Class badge with war decoration, and swords second class, December 13, 1916-1918: 34.2-41.2 grams
- Knight First Class badge with war decoration and swords, December 13, 1916-1918: 42.4 grams
- Knight First Class Star in diamonds: Unknown
- Knight First Class Bullion Star 1816-1860: 7.1-12.8 grams
- Knight First Class Star 1816-May 27, 1877: 34.8-57.3 grams
- Knight First Class Star May 27, 1877-1918: 56.3-90.4 grams
- Knight First Class Star with war decoration of a lower class December 13, 1916-1918: 72-79 grams
- Knight First Class Star with war decoration of a lower grade and swords of a lower grade December 13, 1916-1918: Unknown
- Knight First Class Star with war decoration January 12, 1860-1918: 85.2-99.2 grams
- Knight First Class Star with war decoration and swords, December 13, 1916-1918: 87.7-99.6 grams
- Knight First Class kleine badge, 1908-1918: Unknown
- Knight Second Class Badge 1816-Circa 1820: 23.35-23.5 grams
- Knight Second Class badge circa 1820– 1860: 26.7-28 grams
- Knight second Class badge 1860 1918: 23.7 - 28.5 grams
- Knight Second Class Badge with war decoration of a lower class December 13, 1916-1918: 25-28.5 grams
- Knight Second Class Badge with war decoration and swords 3rd class, December 13, 1916-1918: 24.6 grams
- Knight Second Class Badge with war decoration 1860-1918: 24-27.05 grams
- Knight Second Class Badge with war decoration and swords December 13, 1916-1918: 25.3-36.7 grams
- Knight Second Class Kleine Badge with war decoration, 1917-1918: Unknown
- Knight Second Class Kleine Badge with war decoration third class, 1917-1918: 21.6 grams
- Knight Second Class Kleine Badge with war decoration and swords 1917-1918: Unknown
- Knight third Class with war decoration badge Circa 1860-1918: 25-6 grams (including ribbon)
- Knight third Class badge (silver) 1816-1818: Unknown
- Knight third Class badge (gold) circa 1816-1820: 17.75 (including ribbon) - 20.6 grams
- Knight third Class badge circa 1830-1860: 13-21.7 grams
- Knight third Class badge circa 1850-1860: 21.9 grams (including ribbon)
- Knight third Class badge circa 1820-1918: 21-23 grams
- Knight third Class with war decoration post 1860 –1918: 19.4 -25.6 grams





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)

Size: Since the size of orders can vary somewhat depending on the manufacturer who made it those listed below are typical.

- Knight First Class Badge in diamonds: Unknown
- Knight First Class Badge 1816-Circa 1820: Height 71.8 mm, width 36 mm
- Knight First Class Badge circa 1820–1860: Height 68.5-70 mm, width 32.6-35 mm
- Knight First Class Badge 1860-1918: Height 68.5-79.2 mm, width 37.4-46 mm
- Knight First Class Badge with war decoration 1860-1918: Height 77-80.3 mm, width 45-46 mm
- Knight First Class Badge with war decoration, and swords second class, December 13, 1916-1918: Height 79.9-82.9 mm, width 46-46.4 mm
- Knight First Class Badge with war decoration and swords, December 13, 1916-1918 : Height 76-82.9 mm, width 45-46 mm
- Knight First Class Star in diamonds: Unknown
- Knight First Class Bullion Star 1816-1860: 71-93 mm in diameter
- Knight First Class Star 1816-May 24, 1877: 75-95 mm in diameter
- Knight First Class Star May 24, 1877-1918: 82-92 mm in diameter
- Knight First Class Star with war decoration of a lower grade December 13, 1916-1918: 88-92 mm in diameter
- Knight First Class Star with war decoration of a lower class and swords of a lower class, December 13, 1916-1918: 92 mm in diameter
- Knight First Class Star with war decoration January 12, 1860-1918: 87-92 mm in diameter
- Knight First Class Star with war decoration and swords, December 13, 1916-1918: 86-92 mm in diameter
- Knight First Class Kleine Badge, 1908-1918: Unknown
- Knight Second Class Badge 1816-circa 1820: height 58-66 mm, width 32-34 mm
- Knight Second Class Badge circa 1820– 1860: height 58.1-66 mm, width 31-34 mm
- Knight second Class Badge 1860 191: height 60-66 mm, width 31-34 mm
- Knight Second Class Badge with war decoration of a lower class December 13, 1916-1918: height 64-66 mm, width 33.7-34 mm
- Knight Second Class Badge with war decoration and swords 3rd class, December 13, 1916-1918: Height 66-67.5 mm, width 34-35.5 mm
- Knight Second Class Badge with war decoration January 12, 1860-1918: height 64.2-67 mm, width 33.8-38.3 mm
- Knight Second Class Badge with war decoration and swords, December 13, 1916-1918: height 66-82.8 mm, width 34-45.2 mm
- Knight Second Class Kleine Badge with war decoration, 1917-1918: height 59.7 mm, width 30.3 mm
- Knight Second Class Kleine Badge with war decoration and swords, 1917-1918: height 59.7 mm, width 30.3 mm
- Knight Second Class Kleine Badge with war decoration third class, 1917-1918: Height 58.3 mm, width 30.3 mm
- Knight third Class Badge (silver) 1816-1818: Height 45-48 mm, width 20.5-26 mm
- Knight third Class Badge (gold) Circa 1816-1820: Height 46-50.4, width 22.5-26 mm
- Knight third Class Badge Circa 1830-1860: Height 49.4-52.2 mm, width 26.4-28 mm
 - Knight third Class Badge circa 1850-1860: Height 52.8 mm, width 29.1 mm
 - Knight third Class Badge circa 1820-1918: Height 52-67 mm, width 26-36 mm
 - Knight third Class Badge with war decoration 1860 –1918: Height 52-67 mm, width 29-32.4 mm





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Type of Material:

Badge:

- Brilliants and gold
- Gold and enamel (1816-1918)
- Silver gilt and enamel (1914-1918)
- Silver (1816-1818)
- Gold (1816-1820)
- Bronze gilt and enamel (1914-1918)

Star:

- Silver and gold bullion thread
- Silver, brilliants and gold
- Silver, gold and enamel
- Silver, silver gilt and enamel
- Silver, bronze gilt and enamel





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Variations: As would be expected of an insignia that has been manufactured for such a long time, there are a number of variations of this award. The badges could also be issued in diamonds as a special award from the emperor. This was not a special class of the award but a unique sign of imperial approval. Some noteworthy examples of the insignia are described below and on the following pages.

Badge

- **Type I Knight First and Second Class badge circa 1816:** a flat badge composed of a two headed gold Austrian imperial eagle in a granular gold finish with spread wings and with closed talons. In the eagle's right talon, as seen by the viewer, the eagle holds an upward pointing sword which passes in front of the wing of the eagle, in the left talon the orb of the realm. The eagle has crowned heads, which are surmounted by a flat rigid gold crown with banderols. Under the eagle is a slightly curved Theodolinda crown with iron insert. The circumference of the crown is enameled in such a way as to emphasize the jewels and the enamel equally. On the obverse chest of the gold eagle is a golden gothic shield with a gold **F.** (Franciscus) upon it. A gold suspension ring is attached to the orb of the crown above the eagle. The reverse of the badge has a gold gothic shield with the date **1815** on it.
- **Type II Knight First and Second Class badge circa 1816:** a flat badge composed of a two headed gold Austrian imperial eagle in a granular gold finish with spread wings and with closed talons. In the eagle's right talon, as seen by the viewer, the eagle holds an upward pointing sword which passes in front of the wing of the eagle, in the left talon the orb of the realm. The eagle has crowned heads, which are surmounted by a slightly convex flexible hinged gold crown with banderols. Under the eagle is a slightly curved Theodolinda crown with iron insert. The circumference of the crown is enameled in such a way as to emphasize the jewels and the enamel equally. On the obverse chest of the gold eagle is attached a golden gothic shield with a gold **F.** (Franciscus) upon it. A gold suspension ring is attached to the orb of the crown above the eagle. The reverse of the badge has a gold gothic shield with the date **1815** on it.





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Badge variations continued:

- **Type III Knight First and Second Class badge Circa 1816-1830:** a flat badge composed of a two headed granular finished gold Austrian imperial eagle with spread wings and with closed talons. In the eagle's right talon, as seen by the viewer, is an upward pointing sword which passes in front of the wing of the eagle, in the left talon is the orb of the realm. The eagle has crowned heads, which are surmounted by a hollow flexible gold crown with banderols. Under the eagle is a slightly curved Theodolinda crown with iron insert. The circumference of the crown is enameled in such a way as to emphasize the jewels and the enamel equally. On the obverse chest of the eagle is a blue enameled gothic gold shield with the golden letter **F**. (Franciscus) and on the reverse a blue enameled gothic shield with the date **1815** in gold. A suspension ring is attached to the orb of the crown above the eagle. Attached to the suspension ring is a second oblong gold ring with white enamel pearls for attaching the badge to the ribbon.





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)

Images courtesy of Dorotheum



Badge variations continued:

- **Type IV Knight First and Second Class badge circa 1830:** a flat badge composed of a two headed granular finished gold Austrian imperial eagle with spread wings. In the eagle's right talon is an upward pointing sword, as seen by the viewer, which passes in front of the wing of the eagle, in the left talon is the orb of the realm. The eagle has crowned heads, which are surmounted by a hollow rigid perforated gold crown with banderols. Under the eagle is a slightly curved Theodolinda crown with iron insert. The circumference of the crown is enameled in such a way as to emphasize the jewels and the enamel equally. On the obverse chest of the eagle is a blue enameled gothic gold shield with the golden letter **F**. (Franciscus) and on the reverse a blue enameled gothic shield with the date **1815** in gold. A suspension ring is attached to the orb of the crown above the eagle. Attached to the suspension ring is a second gold ring with white enamel pearls for attaching the badge to the ribbon.
- **Type V Knight First and Second Class badge circa 1830-1860:** a slightly more rounded badge than its predecessors composed of a two headed granular finished gold Austrian imperial eagle with spread wings. In the eagle's right talon, as seen by the viewer, is an upward pointing sword which passes in front of the wing of the eagle, in the left talon is the orb of the realm. The eagle has crowned heads, which are surmounted by a convex flexible gold and red enameled crown with banderols. Under the eagle is a slightly curved Theodolinda crown with iron insert. The circumference of the crown is enameled in such a way as to emphasize the jewels and the enamel equally. On the obverse chest of the eagle is a blue enameled gothic shield with the golden letter **F**. (Franciscus) and on the reverse a blue gothic enameled shield with the date **1815** in gold. A suspension ring is attached to the orb of the crown above the eagle. Attached to the suspension ring is a second oblong gold ring with white enamel pearls for attaching the badge to the ribbon.





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Badge variations continued:

- **Type VI Knight First and Second Class badge circa 1860-1918:** a significantly more three dimensional badge than its predecessors composed of a two headed smooth finished gold Austrian imperial eagle with spread wings. In the eagle's right talon, as seen by the viewer, is an upward pointing sword which passes in front of the eagle's wing, in the left talon is the orb of the realm. The eagle has crowned heads, which are surmounted by a convex hinged gold and red enameled crown with banderols. Under the eagle is a slightly curved Theodolinda crown with iron insert. The circumference of the crown is enameled in such a way as to emphasize the jewels and the enamel. On the obverse chest of the eagle is a gothic blue enameled plaque with a gold letter F. (FRANCISCUS). On the reverse is a blue enameled gothic shield on which is the date 1815. A suspension ring is attached to the orb of the crown above the eagle. Attached to the suspension ring is a second oblong gold ring with white enamel pearls for attaching the badge to the ribbon.
- **Type VII Knight Second Class badge circa 1917-1918:** As type IV above except the badge is personalized on the reverse of the crown suspension or on the bottom of the crown.



Image courtesy of Dorotheum





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Badge variations continued:

- **Type I Knight Third Class Badge 1816-1818:** a two headed silver Austrian imperial eagle with spread wings. In the eagle's right talon, as seen by the viewer, is an upward pointing sword which passes in front of the eagle's wing, in the left talon is the orb of the realm. The eagle has crowned heads, which are surmounted by a flat rigid silver crown with short banderols. Under the eagle is a slightly curved Theodolinda crown with iron insert. The circumference of the crown is enameled in such a way as to emphasize the jewels and the enamel equally. On the obverse chest of the eagle is a gothic silver shield with the letter **F.** (Franciscus). The reverse of the badge has a silver gothic shield with the date **1815** upon it. A transverse suspension ring is attached to the orb of the crown above the eagle.
- **Type II Knight Third Class Badge circa 1816-1820:** a two headed silver Austrian imperial eagle with spread wings. In the eagle's right talon, as seen by the viewer is an upward pointing sword which passes in front of the eagle's wing, in the left talon is the orb of the realm. The eagle has crowned heads, which are surmounted by a flat rigid silver crown with banderols. Under the eagle is a slightly curved Theodolinda crown with iron insert. The circumference of the crown is enameled in such a way as to emphasize the jewels and the enamel equally. On the obverse chest of the eagle is a blue enameled gothic shield with the silver letter **F.** (Franciscus). The reverse of the badge has a blue enameled gothic shield with the date **1815** upon it. A suspension ring is attached to the orb of the crown above the eagle.



Image courtesy of Dorotheum





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Image attributed to 200 Jahre
österreichisch-kaiserlicher Orden
der eisernen Krone

Badge variations continued:

- **Type III Knight Third Class Badge Circa 1816-1820:** a two headed silver Austrian imperial eagle with spread wings. In the eagle's right talon, as seen by the viewer, is an upward pointing sword which passes in front of the eagle's wing, in the left talon is the orb of the realm. The eagle has crowned heads, which are surmounted by a flat hinged movable pierced silver crown with banderols. Under the eagle is a slightly curved Theodolinda crown with an iron insert. The circumference of the crown is enameled in such a way as to emphasize the jewels and the enamel equally. On the obverse chest of the eagle is a blue enameled gothic shield with the silver letter **F**. (Franciscus). The reverse of the badge has a blue enameled gothic shield with the date **1815** upon it. A transverse suspension ring is attached to the orb of the crown above the eagle.
- **Type IV Knight Badge Third Class Circa 1820 - circa 1830:** a flat badge composed of a gold granular finished two headed Austrian imperial eagle with spread wings. In the eagle's right talon, as seen by the viewer, is an upward pointing sword which passes in front of the eagle's wing, in the left talon is the orb of the realm. The eagle has crowned heads, which are surmounted by a flat rigid gold crown with banderols. Under the eagle is a slightly curved Theodolinda crown with an iron insert. The circumference of the crown is enameled in such a way as to emphasize the jewels and the enamel equally. On the obverse chest of the eagle is a blue enameled gothic shield with the gold letter **F**. (Franciscus) and on the reverse of the badge is a blue enameled gothic shield with the date **1815**. A gold suspension ring is attached to the orb of the crown above the eagle.





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Badge variations continued: Badge

- **Type V Knight Badge Third Class Circa 1820 - circa 1830:** a flat badge composed of a gold granular finished two headed Austrian imperial eagle with spread wings and with closed talons. In the eagle's right talon, as seen by the viewer, is an upward pointing sword which passes in front of the eagle's wing, in the left talon is the orb of the realm. The eagle has crowned heads, which are surmounted by a hollow rigid gold crown with banderols. Under the eagle is a slightly curved Theodolinda crown with an iron insert. The circumference of the crown is enameled in such a way as to emphasize the jewels and the enamel equally. On the obverse chest of the eagle is a blue enameled gothic shield with the gold letter **F**. (Franciscus) and on the reverse of the badge is a blue enameled gothic shield with the date **1815**. A suspension ring is attached to the orb of the crown above the eagle. Attached to the suspension ring is a second oblong gold ring with white enamel pearls for attaching the badge to the ribbon.
- **Type VI Knight Third Class Badge circa 1830-1860:** a gold granular finished two headed Austrian imperial eagle with spread wings. In the eagle's right talon, as seen by the viewer, is an upward pointing sword which passes in front of the eagle's wing, in the left talon is the orb of the realm. The eagle has crowned heads, which are surmounted by a convex flexible pierced gold and crown with banderols. Under the eagle is a slightly curved Theodolinda crown with an iron insert. The circumference of the crown is enameled in such a way as to emphasize the jewels and the enamel equally. On the obverse chest of the eagle is a blue enameled gothic shield with the gold letter **F**. (Franciscus) and on the reverse a blue enameled gothic shield with the date **1815**. A suspension ring is attached to the orb of the crown above the eagle. Attached to the suspension ring is a second oblong gold ring with white enamel pearls for attaching the badge to the ribbon.





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Badge variations continued:

Badge

- **Type VII Knight Badge Third Class Circa 1830 - circa 1860:** a flat badge composed of a gold patinated granular finished two headed Austrian imperial eagle with spread wings. In the eagle's right talon, as seen by the viewer, is an upward pointing sword which passes in front of the eagle's wing, in the left talon is the orb of the realm. The eagle has crowned heads, which are surmounted by a hollow perforated rigid gold crown with banderols. Under the eagle is a slightly curved Theodolinda crown with an iron insert. The circumference of the crown is enameled in such a way as to emphasize the jewels and the enamel equally. On the obverse chest of the eagle is a blue enameled gothic shield with the gold letter **F**. (Franciscus) and on the reverse of the badge is a blue enameled gothic shield with the date **1815**. A suspension ring is attached to the orb of the crown above the eagle. Attached to the suspension ring is a second round gold ring with white enamel pearls for attaching the badge to the ribbon.
- **Type VIII Knight Third Class Badge circa 1830-1860:** a gold granular finished two headed Austrian imperial eagle with spread wings. In the eagle's right talon is an upward pointing sword, as seen by the viewer, which passes in front of the eagle's wing, in the left talon is the orb of the realm. The eagle has crowned heads, which are surmounted by a convex rigid gold and red enameled crown with banderols. Under the eagle is a slightly curved Theodolinda crown with iron insert. The circumference of the crown is enameled in such a way as to emphasize the jewels and the enamel equally. On the obverse chest of the eagle is a blue enameled gothic shield with the gold letter **F**. (Franciscus) and on the reverse a blue enameled gothic shield with the date **1815**. A suspension ring is attached to the orb of the crown above the eagle. Attached to the suspension ring is a second oblong gold ring with white enamel pearls for attaching the badge to the ribbon.





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Badge variations continued: Badge

- **Type IX Knight Third Class badge circa 1850-1860:** a gold granular finished two headed Austrian imperial eagle with spread wings. In the eagle's right talon, as seen by the viewer, is an upward pointing sword which passes in front of the wing of the eagle, in the left talon is the orb of the realm. The eagle has crowned heads, which are surmounted by a convex flexible hollow pierced gold and red enamel filled crown with banderols. Under the eagle is a slightly curved artificially patinated Theodolinda crown with iron insert. The circumference of the crown is enameled in such a way as to emphasize the jewels and the enamel equally. On the obverse chest of the eagle is attached a blue enameled gothic shield with the gold letter **F**. (Franciscus) and on the reverses a blue enameled gothic shield with the date **1815**. A suspension ring is attached to the orb of the crown above the eagle. Attached to the suspension ring is a second oblong gold ring with white enamel pearls for attaching the badge to the ribbon.
- **Type X Knight Third Class badge circa 1860-1918:** a significantly more three dimensional badge than its predecessors with a smooth gold finished two headed Austrian imperial eagle with spread wings. In the eagle's right talon, as seen by the viewer, is an upward pointing sword which passes in front of the eagle's wing, in the left talon is the orb of the realm. The eagle has crowned heads, which are surmounted by a convex hinged gold and enamel crown with banderols. Under the eagle is a slightly curved Theodolinda crown with an iron insert. The circumference of the crown is enameled in such a way as to emphasize the jewels and the enamel equally. On the obverse chest of the eagle is a gothic blue enameled shield with the gold letter **F**. (Franciscus). On the reverses is a blue enameled gothic shield on which is the date **1815**. A suspension ring is attached to the orb of the crown above the eagle. Attached to the suspension ring is a second oblong gold ring with white enamel pearls for attaching the badge to the ribbon.



Image courtesy of Dorotheum





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Badge variations continued:
Badge

- **Type XI Knight Third Class badge circa 1917-1918:** As type X except the badge is personalized on the reverses of the crown





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Badge variations continued:

- **Type I Knight First and Second class badge with war decoration of a lower class and swords of a lower class, December 13, 1916-1918:** a badge composed of a smooth gold finished two headed Austria imperial eagle with spread wings. In the eagle's right talon, as seen by the viewer, is an upward pointing sword which passes in front of the eagle's wing, in the left talon is the orb of the realm. The eagle has crowned heads, which are surmounted by a convex hinged gold and red enameled crown with banderols upon which are placed **silver** swords. Under the eagle is a slightly curved Theodolinda crown with iron insert. The circumference of the crown is enameled in such a way as to emphasize the jewels and the enamel equally. On the obverse chest of the eagle is a gothic blue enameled gothic shield with the gold letter **F**. (Franciscus). Surrounding the blue enameled shield is a green laurel wreath which passes around the edge of the shield. On the revers is a blue enameled gothic shield on which is the date **1815**. A suspension ring is attached to the orb of the crown above the eagle. Attached to the suspension ring is a second oblong gold ring with white enamel pearls for attaching the badge to the ribbon.





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Badge variations continued:

Image attributed to Vaclav Mericka, Orden
Und Ehrenzeichen, Anton Schroll & Co

- **Type I Knight First and Second Class badge with war decoration of a lower class, January 12, 1860 -1918:** a badge composed of a smooth gold finished two headed Austrian imperial eagle with spread wings and closed talons. In the eagle's right talon, as seen by the viewer, is an upward pointing sword which passes in front of the wing of the eagle, in the left talon is the orb of the realm. The eagle has crowned heads, which are surmounted by a convex hinged gold and red enameled crown with banderols. Under the eagle is a slightly curved Theodolinda crown with iron insert. The circumference of the crown is enameled in such a way as to emphasize the jewels and the enamel equally. On the obverse chest of the eagle is a gothic blue enameled shield with the gold letter **F**. (Franciscus). Surrounding the blue enameled shield is a green laurel wreath which passes around the edge of the shield. On the reverse is a blue enameled gothic shield on which is the date **1815**. A suspension ring is attached to the orb of the crown above the eagle. Attached to the suspension ring is a second oblong gold ring with white enamel pearls for attaching the badge to the ribbon.





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Badge variations continued:

- **Type I Knight Badge in all classes with war decoration circa 1860:** a two headed granular finished gold Austrian imperial eagle with spread wings. In the eagle's right talon, as seen by the viewer, is an upward pointing sword which passes in front of the eagle's wing, in the left talon is the orb of the realm. The eagle has crowned heads, which are surmounted by a convex hinged gold and red enameled crown with banderols. Under the eagle is a slightly curved Theodolinda crown with iron insert. The circumference of the crown is enameled in such a way as to emphasize the jewels and the enamel equally. On the obverse chest of the eagle is a blue enameled gothic shield with the gold letter **F**. (Franciscus). Green enameled laurel boughs arise from the "Iron Crown" and follow the counter of the eagle's wings thus forming a wreath. On the reverses of the badge is a blue enameled shield with the date **1815**. A suspension ring is attached to the orb of the crown above the eagle. Attached to the suspension ring is a second oblong gold ring with white enamel pearls for attaching the badge to the ribbon.
- **Type II Knight Badge in all classes with war decoration January 12, 1860 -1918:** a two headed smooth gold finished Austrian imperial eagle with spread wings. In the eagle's right talon, as seen by the viewer, is an upward pointing sword which passes in front of the eagle's wing, in the left talon is the orb of the realm. The eagle has crowned heads, which are surmounted by a convex hinged gold and red enameled crown with banderols. Under the eagle is a slightly curved Theodolinda crown with an iron insert. The circumference of the crown is enameled in such a way as to emphasize the jewels and the enamel equally. On the obverse chest of the eagle is a gothic blue enameled shield with the gold letter **F**. (Franciscus). Green enameled laurel boughs arise from the "Iron Crown" and follow the counter of the eagle's wings thus forming a wreath. On the reverses of the eagle is a blue enameled shield with the date **1815**. A suspension ring is attached to the orb of the crown above the eagle. Attached to the suspension ring is a second oblong gold ring with white enamel pearls for attaching the badge to the ribbon.





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)

Image courtesy of Dorotheum



Badge variations continued:

- **Type III Knight Badge Third Class with war decoration and personalized inscription, January 12, 1860 -1918:** a two headed smooth gold finished Austrian imperial eagle with spread wings. In the eagle's right talon, as seen by the viewer, is an upward pointing sword which passes in front of the eagle's wing, in the left talon is the orb of the realm. The eagle has crowned heads, which are surmounted by a convex hinged gold and red enameled crown with banderols. Under the eagle is a slightly curved Theodolinda crown with an iron insert. The circumference of the crown is enameled in such a way as to emphasize the jewels and the enamel equally. On the obverse chest of the eagle is a gothic blue enameled shield with the gold letter F. (Franciscus). Green enameled laurel boughs arise from the "Iron Crown" and follow the counter of the eagle's wings thus forming a wreath. On the reverse of the eagle is a blue enameled gothic shield with the date **1815**. A suspension ring is attached to the orb of the crown above the eagle. Attached to the suspension ring is a second oblong gold ring with white enamel pearls for attaching the badge to the ribbon. The reverse of the crown or the bottom of the crown is inscribed with a special award inscription. In the case of the example above the inscription reads "**SEINEM HOCHVEREHRTEN KOMMANDANTEN OFFIZIERSKORPS 89**" (His highly esteemed commander of the Officer Corp 89). Below is an example of the inscription as it appears on the bottom of the badge

Image courtesy of Dorotheum





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Image attributed to 200 Jahre österreichisch-kaiserlicher Orden der eisernen Krone

Badge variations continued:

- **Type IV Knight Badge Third Class jeweled with war decoration and personalized inscription, circa 1915:** a two headed smooth gold finished Austrian imperial eagle with spread wings. In the eagle's right talon, as seen by the viewer, is an upward pointing sword which passes in front of the eagle's wing, in the left talon is the orb of the realm. The eagle has crowned heads, which are surmounted by a convex hinged gold and red enameled crown with banderols. Under the eagle is a slightly curved Theodolinda crown with an iron insert. The crown is jeweled with diamonds, rubies and tanzanite. On the obverse chest of the eagle is a gothic blue enameled shield with the gold letter **F**. (Franciscus). Green jeweled laurel boughs arises from the "Iron Crown" and follow the counter of the eagle's wings thus forming a wreath. On the reverse of the eagle is a blue enameled gothic shield with the date **1815**. A suspension ring is attached to the orb of the crown above the eagle. Attached to the suspension ring is a second oblong gold ring with white enamel pearls for attaching the badge to the ribbon. The reverse of the crown is inscribed in black enamel with a special award inscription. In the case of the example above the inscription reads **"Die Alexander Ulanen Ihrem Oberst 25. Juni 1915"** (The Alexander Ulans to its Colonel June 1915).





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Badge variations continued:

- **Type V Knight Third Class badge with war decoration 1860-1918:** The same as the type II badge with the exception that the portion of the crown inside the simulated pearls is gun metal in color. This type badge was produced by the firm of Alexander.E. Kochert
- **Type VI Knight third Class badge circa 1830 type with added 1860 war decoration:** a slightly more rounded badge than its predecessors composed of a two headed granular finished gold Austrian imperial eagle with spread wings. In the eagle's right talon, as seen by the viewer, is an upward pointing sword which passes in front of the wing of the eagle, in the left talon is the orb of the realm. The eagle has crowned heads, which are surmounted by a convex rigid pierced gold crown with banderols. Under the eagle is a slightly curved Theodolinda crown with iron insert. The circumference of the crown is enameled in such a way as to emphasize the jewels and the enamel equally. On the obverse chest of the eagle is a blue enameled gothic shield with the golden letter **F**. (Franciscus) and on the reverses a blue gothic enameled shield with the date **1815** in gold. Green enameled laurel boughs have been added to the "Iron Crown" and follow the counter of the eagle's wings thus forming a wreath. A suspension ring is attached to the orb of the crown above the eagle. Attached to the suspension ring is a second round gold ring with white enamel pearls for attaching the badge to the ribbon.





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Badge variations continued:

- **Type I Knight First and Second Class Badge with war decoration and swords of a lower class, December 13, 1916-1918:** a smooth gold finished two headed Austrian imperial eagle with spread wings. In the eagle's right talon, as seen by the viewer, is an upward pointing sword which passes in front of the eagle's wing, in the left talon is the orb of the realm. The eagle has crowned heads, which are surmounted by a convex hinged gold and red enameled crown with banderols. Attached to the banderols of the imperial crown are crossed **silver** swords. Under the eagle is a slightly curved Theodolinda crown with iron insert. The circumference of the crown is enameled in such a way as to emphasize the jewels and the enamel equally. On the obverse chest of the eagle is a gothic blue enameled shield with the gold letter **F**. (Franciscus). Green enameled laurel boughs arise from the "Iron Crown" and follow the counters of the eagle's wings thus forming a wreath. A suspension ring is attached to the orb of the crown above the eagle. Attached to the suspension ring is a second oblong gold ring with white enamel pearls for attaching the badge to the ribbon.
- **Type I Knight First and Second Class Badge with war decoration and swords, December 13, 1916-1918:** a smooth gold finished two headed Austrian imperial eagle with spread wings. In the eagle's right talon, as seen by the viewer, is an upward pointing sword which passes in front of the eagle's wing, in the left talon is the orb of the realm. The eagle has crowned heads, which are surmounted by a convex hinged gold and red enameled crown with banderols. Attached to the banderols of the imperial crown are crossed **gold** swords. Under the eagle is a slightly curved Theodolinda crown with an iron insert. The circumference of the crown is enameled in such a way as to emphasize the jewels and the enamel equally. On the obverse chest of the eagle is a gothic blue enameled shield with the gold letter **F**. (Franciscus). Green enameled laurel boughs arise from the "Iron Crown" and follow the counters of the eagle's wings thus forming a wreath. A suspension ring is attached to the orb of the crown above the eagle. Attached to the suspension ring is a second oblong gold ring with white enamel pearls for attaching the badge to the ribbon.



Image courtesy of Dorotheum





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Badge variations continued:

- **Type II Knight First, Second and Third Class Badge with war decoration and war decoration and swords and Personalized Inscription, December 13, 1916-1918:** As Type I except with an inscription on the reverse of the Theodolinda crown.





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Variations continued:

Knight First Class Star

- **Type I Knight First class, bullion star, circa 1816-1860:** An eight pointed (40 rayed) blade cut silver bullion star with a 35-40 mm center medallion. The star is almost round in shape. The center medallion is composed of a circular gold metal background on which a curved enameled Theodolinda Crown is placed. The crown is often enameled to represent the jewels on the original crown. In some cases the center medallion is entirely composed of bullion thread. A blue enameled ring surrounds the center medallion. The blue ring has within it a gold decorative floral ornament at the bottom and an inscription in gold **AVITA ET AUCTA**: (Ancient and Getting Better) at the top. A gold beaded inner and outer ring borders this blue enameled ring.
- **Type I Knight First Class, metal star, circa 1847:** An eight pointed (32 rayed) blade cut silver metal star with a 35-40 mm center medallion. The star is almost round in shape. The center medallion has in its center a circular golden background on which a curved Theodolinda Crown is placed. The crown is enameled to represent the jewels of the crown. A blue enameled ring surrounds the center medallion. The blue ring has within it a gold decorative floral ornament at the bottom and an inscription in gold **AVITA ET AUCTA**: (Ancient and Getting Better) at the top. A gold beaded outer ring borders this blue enameled ring.



Image attributed to Verganglicher Glanz..., Altösterreichs Orden, Walter Schwarz





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Image attributed to Vaclav Mericka, Orden Und Ehrenzeichen, Anton Schroll & Co

Knight First Class Star variations continued:

- **Type II Knight First Class, metal star, circa 1823:** An eight pointed (56 rayed) blade cut silver metal star with a circular medallion in the center. The center medallion has in its center a circular golden background on which a curved Theodolinda Crown is placed. The crown has enamel, which represents the jewels of the original crown. A clear green enameled ring surrounds the center medallion. The green ring has beneath it a gold oak wreath. A scalloped gold inner and outer ring borders this green ring.
- **Type III Knight First Class, metal star, January 30, 1847-May 24 1877:** An eight pointed (56 rayed) blade cut silver metal star with a circular medallion in the center. The center medallion has in its center a circular golden background on which a curved Theodolinda Crown is placed. The crown is enameled to represent the jewels of the original crown. A blue enameled ring surrounds the center medallion. The blue ring has within it a gold crossed laurel boughs tied with a bow at the bottom and an inscription in gold **AVITA ET AUCTA**: (Ancient and Getting Better) at the top. A gold beaded inner and outer ring borders this blue enameled ring.



Image courtesy of Dorotheum





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Knight First Class Star variations continued:

- **Type IV Knight First Class, metal star, January 30, 1847-May 24 1877:** An eight pointed (40 rayed) blade cut silver metal star with a circular medallion in the center. The center medallion has in its center a circular golden background on which a curved Theodolin Crown is placed. The crown is enameled to represent the jewels of the original crown. A blue enameled ring surrounds the center medallion. The blue ring has within it a gold floral decorative element at the bottom and an inscription in gold **AVITA ET AUCTA**: (Ancient and Getting Better) at the top. A gold beaded inner and outer ring borders this blue enameled ring.
- **Type V Knight First Class, metal star, January 30, 1847-May 24 1877:** An eight pointed (56 rayed) blade cut silver metal star with a circular medallion in the center. The center medallion has in its center a circular golden background on which a curved Theodolinda Crown; the crown is enameled to represent the jewels of the original crown. A blue enameled ring surrounds the center medallion. The blue ring has within it a gold floral decorative element at the bottom flanked on each side by a gold star and an inscription in gold **AVITA ET AUCTA**: (Ancient and Getting Better) at the top. A gold inner and outer ring borders this blue enameled ring.
- **Type VI Knight First Class, metal star, May 24, 1877-1918:** A diamond cut silver star with a with a circular medallion in the center. The center medallion has in its center a circular golden background on which a curved Theodolinda Crown was placed. The crown is enameled to represent the jewels of the original crown. A blue enameled ring surrounds the center medallion. The blue ring has within it a gold floral decorative element at the bottom flanked on each side by a gold star and an inscription in gold **AVITA ET AUCTA**: (Ancient and Getting Better) at the top. A gold beaded inner and outer ring borders this blue enameled ring.
- **Type VII Knight First Class metal star with diamonds:** As the type IV and VI star except it is set with gem stones.



Image courtesy of Dorotheum





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)

Image attributed to Vaclav Mericka, Orden
Und Ehrenzeichen, Anton Schroll & Co

Knight First Class Star variations continued:

- **Type I Knight First Class with war decoration of a lower class, metal star, February 12, 1860 -May 24, 1877:** An eight pointed (40 rayed) blade cut silver star with a circular medallion in the center. The center medallion has in its center a circular golden background on which a curved Theodolinda Crown was placed. The crown is enameled to represent the jewels of the original crown. A blue enameled ring surrounds the center medallion. The blue ring has within it a gold floral decorative element at the bottom flanked on each side by a gold star and an inscription in gold **AVITA ET AUCTA:** (Ancient and Getting Better) at the top. A gold inner and outer ring borders the blue enameled ring. Around the center medallion is placed a green enameled gold oak wreath
- **Type II Knight First Class with war decoration of a lower class, metal star, May 24, 1877-1918:** An eight pointed (40 rayed) diamond cut silver star with a circular medallion in the center. The center medallion has in its center a circular golden background on which a curved Theodolinda Crown is placed,. The crown is enameled to represent the jewels of the original crown. A blue enameled ring surrounds the center medallion. The blue ring has within it a gold floral decorative element at the bottom flanked on each side by a gold star and an inscription in gold **AVITA ET AUCTA:** (Ancient and Getting Better) at the top. A gold beaded inner and outer ring borders this blue enameled ring. Around the center medallion is placed a gold laurel wreath
- **Type III Knight First Class with war decoration of a lower class, metal star, May 27, 1877 -1918** An eight pointed (40 rayed) diamond cut silver star with a circular medallion in the center. The center medallion has in its center a circular golden background on which a curved Theodolinda Crown is placed,. The crown is enameled to represent the jewels of the original crown. A blue enameled ring surrounds the center medallion. The blue ring has within it a gold floral decorative element at the bottom flanked on each side by a gold star and an inscription in gold **AVITA ET AUCTA:** (Ancient and Getting Better) at the top. A gold beaded inner and outer ring borders this blue enameled ring. Around the center medallion is placed a green enameled laurel wreath.





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)

Knight First Class Star variations continued:

- **Type I Knight First Class with war decoration and swords of lower class, metal star, 1917-1918** An eight pointed (40 rayed) diamond cut silver star with a circular medallion in the center. The center medallion has in its center a circular golden background on which a curved Theodolin Crown is placed. The crown is enameled to represent the jewels of the original crown. A blue enameled ring surrounds the center medallion. The blue ring has within it a gold floral decorative element at the bottom flanked on each side by a gold star and an inscription in gold **AVITA ET AUCTA**: (Ancient and Getting Better) at the top. A gold beaded inner and outer ring borders this blue enameled ring. Around the center medallion is placed a green enameled laurel wreath. Passing through the center medallion are crossed **silver** swords
- **Type I Knight First Class with war decoration, metal star, January 12, 1860 -May 24, 1877:** An eight pointed (56 rayed) blade cut silver star with a circular medallion in the center. The center medallion has in its center a circular golden background on which a curved Theodolinda Crown is placed. The crown is enameled to represent the jewels of the original crown. A blue enameled ring surrounds the center medallion. The blue ring has within it a gold crossed boughs ornament at the bottom and an inscription in gold **AVITA ET AUCTA**: (Ancient and Getting Better) at the top. A gold serrated inner and outer ring borders this blue enameled ring. Passing below the tips of the star is a gilt laurel wreath.
- **Type II Knight First Class with war decoration, metal star, May 24, 1877-1918:** An eight pointed diamond cut silver star with a circular medallion in the center. The center medallion has in its center a circular golden background on which a curved Theodolin Crown is placed. The crown is enameled to represent the jewels of the original crown. A blue enameled ring surrounds the center medallion. The blue ring has within it a gold floral decorative element at the bottom flanked on each side by a gold star and an inscription in gold **AVITA ET AUCTA**: (Ancient and Getting Better) at the top. A gold beaded inner and outer ring borders this blue enameled ring. Passing below the tips of the star is a gilt laurel wreath.

Image attributed to Vaclav Mericka, Orden Und Ehrenzeichen, Anton Schroll & Co





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)

Knight First Class Star variations continued:

- **Type I Knight First Class with war decoration, and swords of lower class, metal star, December 13, 1916-1918:** An eight pointed diamond cut silver star with a circular medallion in the center. The center medallion has in its center a circular golden background on which a curved Theodolinda Crown is placed. The crown is enameled to represent the jewels of the original crown. The blue ring has within it a gold floral decorative element at the bottom flanked on each side by a gold star and an inscription in gold **AVITA ET AUCTA**: (Ancient and Getting Better) at the top. A gold beaded inner and outer ring borders this blue enameled ring. Passing below the tips of the star is a gilt laurel wreath. Passing under the center badge is crossed **silver** swords.
- **Type I Knight First Class with war decoration and swords, metal star, December 13, 1916-1918:** An eight pointed diamond cut silver star with a circular medallion in the center. The center medallion has in its center a circular golden background on which a curved Theodolinda Crown is placed. The crown is enameled to represent the jewels of the original crown. A blue enameled ring surrounds the center medallion. The blue ring has within it a gold floral decorative element at the bottom flanked on each side by a gold star and an inscription in gold **AVITA ET AUCTA**: (Ancient and Getting Better) at the top. A gold beaded inner and outer ring borders this blue enameled ring. Passing below the tips of the star is a gilt laurel wreath. Passing under the center badge is crossed **gold** swords.





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Knight First Class Star variations continued:

- **Type I Knight First Class star group in bullion:** This is a very unusual example of the bullion star. It is combined with the other major order stars of the Austrian Empire to form a single badge. This was a one of a kind insignia worn by the emperors of Austria. This is a pre-1877 example of the insignia.





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Knight First Class Star variations continued:

- **Type II Knight First Class star group in metal:** This is a very unusual example of the star. It is combined with the other major order stars of the Austrian Empire to form a single badge. This was a one of a kind insignia worn by the emperors of Austria. This is a post 1877 example of the insignia.

Designer: Unknown

Manufacturer:

- Ignaz Joseph Schmidt made the original insignia including the collars (1817-1838)
- Josef Domhart (1838-), made first metal stars and insignia after 1838
- Andre Alckens, Vienna (1810-1815)
- Rozet and Fishmeister (1880-1918)
- Carl Frederick Rothe & Neffe (1850-1918), first made insignia from 1855
- Vincent Mayer and sons (1810-1918)
- Alexander Kochert, Vienna (1814-1918)
- Wilhelm Kunz
 - A. Bachruch of Budapest
 - F. Braun
 - Heinrich Ulbricht's Witwe (1914-1918)
 - Gebruder Resch





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown (Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)

Number Issued: 100 persons were authorized to be members of this order at any one time (this convention was not adhered to in WW I)

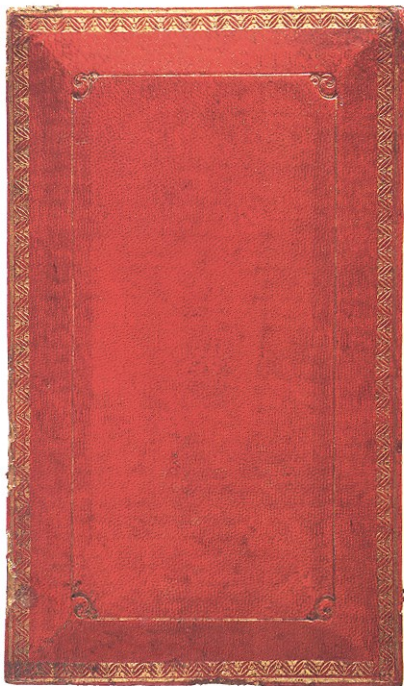
- The 100 knights were divided as follows: 20 Knights, first class, 30 Knights, second class and 50 Knights, third class
- The order was awarded 6,655 times prior to the first world war. Between 1914 and 1918 it was awarded approximately 7,000 times of which 1,236 were awarded to members of the Hungarian Honved. Thus about 13,655 awards were made in total. Most of the awards made in WWI were with war decoration.

Order of Precedence:

- Knight First Class, Number 7 after the Order of Leopold, commander and before the Order of Franz Joseph, grand cross
- Knight Second Class, Number 13 after the Military Merit Cross, second class and before the Order of Franz Joseph, commander with star
- Knight Third Class, Number 23 after the Order of Franz Joseph, officer and before the Order of Franz Joseph, Knight

Case: The case is dark brown or maroon grained simulated leather or leather with the letters **OESTERR./KAISERLICHER ORDEN/ DER/ EISERNEN KRONE/** “the class” in gold on the lid. Sometimes there is also the imperial coat of arms in gold above the inscription. The inside of the lid is white satin and often has the logo of the maker in gold. The inside of the lower lid is fitted with plush fawn, gray, or black colored velvet. The bottom of the box is black or white paper and has in some cases the date of issue and the number of the issue applied to it in black ink on a blue and white stamp.

Case for the knight first class circa 1850



Images courtesy of Dorotheum





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

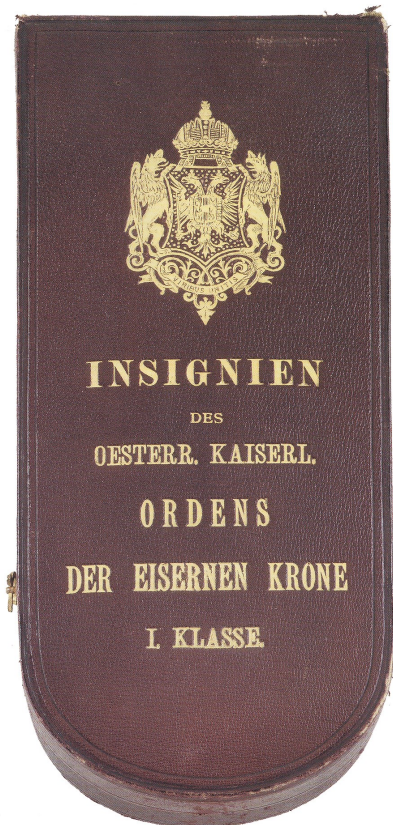
(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)

Case: Knight first class

Image courtesy of Dorotheum



Image attributed to 200 Jahre österreichisch-kaiserlicher Orden der eisernen Krone





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)

Case:

Knight 1st class star in case



Image attributed to Verganglicher Glanz...,
Altösterreichs Orden, Walter Schwarz



Knight 2nd class with war decoration and
swords

Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Knight 2nd
class case, circa
1850. Exterior
is the same as
the Grand
Cross, see page
298





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)

Case Continued:

Knight third class in case



Knight first class, Kleine
badge in case



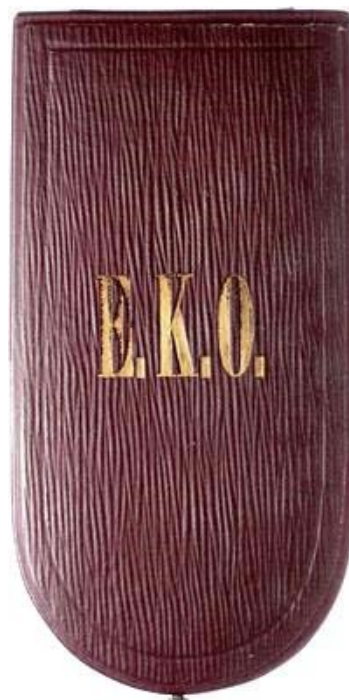
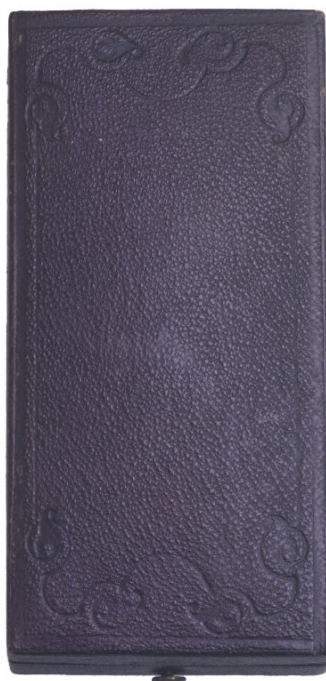
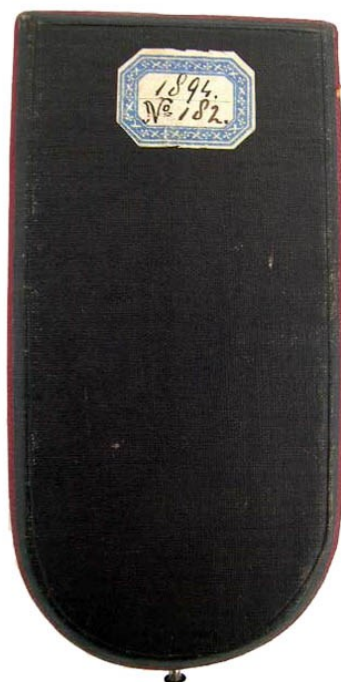
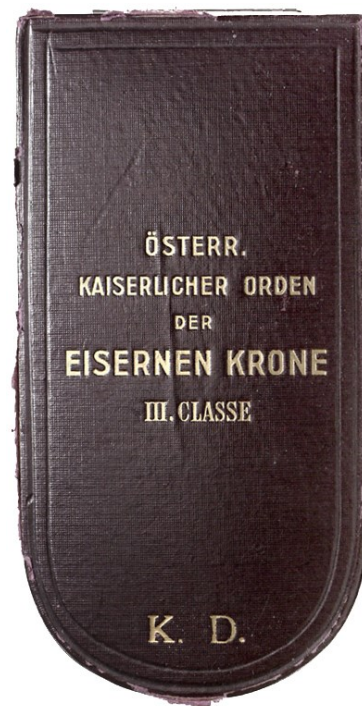


Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)

Case (Continued): During WWI some cases were made by J.G. Bergmann



Iron Crown 3rd class case exterior. Type known to be used by Joseph Domhart, circa 1838





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)

Ribbon: The ribbon is silk moiré and is golden yellow with blue edge stripes. The original ribbons were made by the master Weaver Johann Jakob Knoller

- The Grand Cordon 1816-1860 is a 102 mm wide and 850 mm long golden-yellow and blue ribbon with 12 mm wide blue edge stripes. The early versions had a knot for attaching the badge to the ribbon while later versions have a rosette to which the grand cross badge is attached. The Grand Cordon was worn over the right shoulder with the rosette and badge resting on the left hip.
- The Grand Cordon 1917-1918 is a 102 mm wide and 850 mm long golden-yellow and blue ribbon with 14 mm wide edge blue stripes. This version of the ribbon had a rosette to which the grand cross badge is attached. The Grand Cordon was worn over the right shoulder with the rosette and badge resting on the left hip.



**1816-1860 First Class Knight
on Grand Cordon**



**1917-18 First Class Knight
with war decoration and
swords on Grand Cordon with
Rosette**





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)

Ribbon (Continued):

- Clergy wore the Knight First Class badge on a 102 mm wide golden-yellow and blue grand cordon collar, which was worn over the shoulders so that the badge rested at the center of the chest.





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)

Ribbon (Continued):

Knight Second Class on Cravat (1816 –1823)



- The Knight Second Class ribbon is 52 mm wide with 8 mm blue side stripes and is worn around the neck or occasionally in a button hole.

Knight Second Class on Cravat (1823-1830)



Image from Österreichs Orden , vom Mittelalter bis zur Gegenwart, Johann Stolzer & Christian Steeb





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)

Ribbon (Continued):

Knight Second Class on Cravat (1860 -1918)



- The knight third class ribbon is 29.5-33 mm wide and is golden-yellow with 3.5 mm blue (sometimes green for the early badges) side stripes.

Knight third Class (1816-1823)





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)

Ribbon (Continued):

- Knight third class on strait 40 mm wide golden-yellow ribbon with 6 mm wide blue edge stripes (circa 1820-1830)
- Knight third class with war decoration (circa 1860) on a golden-yellow 40 mm tri-fold ribbon with 6 mm blue edge stripes
- Knight third class on 40 mm golden-yellow tri-fold ribbon with 6 wide blue edge stripes (circa 1916-18)





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Ribbon (Continued):

- A rectangular chest ribbons were introduced in 1917 with various attachments (see next page)

Attachments:

- Gilt swords were authorized on December 13, 1916: and were attached to the knight badge ribbon to denote an award for bravery. Swords are worn pommel up in some cases by Hungarians who received this award (See below)
- A gilt second award bar for the third class was authorized on February 17, 1918 but there are no known official awards of the decoration with the second award bar.



Image curtesy of Dorotheum



Image attributed to 200 Jahre österreichisch-kaiserlicher Orden der eisernen Krone





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)

Attachments Continued:

- The tri-fold ribbon attachments to designate a higher class of the award were authorized for the first class on April 22, 1908 and for the second class on October 27, 1917. The attachment to designate a higher award is in the form of a miniature of the Iron Crown on the ribbon to denote the Knight Second Class badge and a star to indicate the Knight First Class. Both attachments can be worn with war decoration and swords (which were approved on January 9, 1917). The small rectangular ribbon with these attachments was introduced in October 27, 1917





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)

Attachments:

Kleine Badge: The Kleine for the Knight First Class was authorized on April 22, 1908 and for other classes on October 27, 1917. The Kleine insignia are:

- Knight Second Class Kleine (October 27, 1917-1918): A miniature iron crown on the ribbon of the knight third class badge
- Knight Second Class with third class war decoration Kleine (October 27, 1917-1918): A miniature iron crown worn on the ribbon of the knight third class badge which has a green enameled wreath around the shield on the obverse
- Knight Second Class with war decoration third class and swords third class Kleine (January 9, 1917-1918): A miniature iron crown worn on the ribbon of the knight third class badge which has a green enameled wreath around the shield on the obverse. Above the crown on the ribbon are **silver** crossed swords



Image attributed to 200 Jahre österreichisch-kaiserlicher Orden der eisernen Krone





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)

Attachments (Continued):

Kleine Badge:

- Knight Second Class with war decoration Kleine (October 27, 1917-1918): A miniature iron crown with war decoration on the ribbon of the third class knights badge with a green wreath emanating from the iron crown of the badge and paralleling the wings of the eagle
- Knight Second Class with war decoration, and swords third class Kleine (January, 1917-1918): A miniature iron crown with wreath and **silver** swords above it on the ribbon of the third class knights badge with a green wreath emanating from the iron crown of the badge and paralleling the wings of the eagle
- Knight Second Class with war decoration, and swords Kleine (January, 1917-1918): A miniature iron crown with wreath and **gold** swords above it on the ribbon of the third class knights badge with a green wreath emanating from the iron crown of the badge and paralleling the wings of the eagle



Image courtesy of Dorotheum





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)

Attachments (Continued):

Kleine Badge:

- Knight first Class Kleine (April 22, 1908-1918): A 19.6-20.3 mm in diameter miniature first class star which weighs 3.15 grams on the ribbon of the knight third class badge (Note: could be worn by foreign recipients after January 4, 1915)
- Knight First Class with war decoration of a lower class Kleine (April 22, 1908-1918): A 19.6-20.3 mm in diameter miniature first class star which weighs 3.15 grams worn on the ribbon of the knight third class badge which has a green enameled wreath around the shield on the obverse. (Note: could be worn by foreign recipients after January 4, 1915)
- Knight First Class with war decoration of a lower class and swords of a lower class Kleine, January 9, 1917-1918: A 19.6-20.3 mm in diameter miniature first class star which weighs 3.15 grams below which are **silver** crossed swords worn on the ribbon of the knight third class badge which has a green enameled wreath around the shield on the obverse



Image courtesy of Dorotheum





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)

Attachments (Continued):

Kleine Badge:

- Knight First Class with war decoration Kleine (April 22, 1908-1918): A 16.2-20.2 mm in diameter miniature star with war decoration on the ribbon of the third class knights badge with a green wreath emanating from the iron crown of the badge and paralleling the wings of the eagle (Note: could be worn by foreign recipients after January 4, 1915)
- Knight First Class with war decoration and swords of a lower class Kleine, January 9, 1917-1918: A 16.2-20.2 mm in diameter miniature star with war decoration and **silver** swords on the ribbon of the third class knights badge with a green wreath emanating from the iron crown of the badge and paralleling the wings of the eagle
- Knight First Class with war decoration and swords Kleine, January 9, 1917-1918: A 16.2-20.2 mm in diameter miniature star with war decoration and **gold** swords on the ribbon of the third class knights badge with a green wreath emanating from the iron crown of the badge and paralleling the wings of the eagle



Image courtesy of Dorotheum





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown (Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)

Miniature: There are a wide verity of miniatures of this order including jeweled versions



Knight 1st and 2nd
Class 1816-1830



Knight 3rd Class
1820-1830



Knight all classes
1820-1830



Knight all classes
1830-1860

Image courtesy of Dorotheum



Knight with war decoration
all classes 1917-1918



Knight all classes 1917-
1918





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)

Miniature (Continued): There are a wide verity of miniatures of this order including jeweled versions



Knight with war decoration
and swords 1916-1918



Knight 1st class with war dec-
oration 2nd class 1877-1918



Knight 1st class 1820-1918





Orders of Knighthood
Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown
(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)

Miniature (Continued):





Orders of Knighthood
Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown
(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)

Miniature (Continued):



Image courtesy of Dorotheum





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown (Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)

Iron Crown Knight First Class with war decorrelation kleine badge on a 13 medal, officer group



Iron Crown Knight Third Class with war decorrelation and swords on a nine medal, officer group





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)

Some Notable Recipients

Knight First Class in Diamonds:

- Archduke Rainer von Habsburg, Viceroy of Lombardy and Venice, 1838

Knight First Class with war decoration and swords:

- Feldmarschall Eduard Baron von Böhm-Ermolli
- Feldmarschall Svetozar Boroević von Bojna
- Feldmarschall Franz Conrad von Hötzendorf
- Feldmarschall Hermann Baron Kövess von Kövessháza
- Generaloberst Paul Baron Puhallo von Brlog
- Feldmarschall Franz Baron Rohr von Denta
- Generaloberst Rudolf Stöger-Steiner Freiherr von Steinstätten
- Generaloberst Wenzel Freiherr von Wurm

Knight First Class with war decoration:

- General der Infanterie Emil Colerus von Geldern
- Feldzeugmeister Gustav Graf Geldern-Egmond zu Arcen
- Feldzeugmeister Philipp Graf Grünne
- Feldmarschall Leutnant Gzurman
- Feldmarschall Sandor Szurmay

Knight First Class:

- Alois Aehrenthal Minister of Foreign Affairs from 1906 to 1914
- Karl Prince Schwarzenberg
- Generaloberst Arthur Arz von Straussenburg,
- Count von Bellegarde, the Order Chancellor
- Generaloberst Artur Freiherr von Bolfras,
- Archduke and Crown Prince Ferdinand (the first recipient)
- Ferdinand, Grand Duke of Tuscany
- Franz Joseph I, Emperor of Austria
- Generaloberst Friedrich Freiherr von Georgi
- Count von Saurau, Governor of Lombardy
- Count von Wrba, Keeper of the Privy Purse

Some notable awards:

- Friedrich Graf von Beck-Rzikowsky: President of the Military Chancery 1867-1881, General-Adjutant to the Kaiser 1874-1881, Chief of the General Staff 1881-1906, Kapitän der k.k. Ersten Arciären-Leibgarde 1906-1917, Order of the Iron Crown knight first class with war decoration and swords of a lower class
- Linienschiffsleutnant Georg Ritter von Trapp, Order of the Iron Crown knight third class with war decoration and swords for the sinking of the armored cruiser Leon Gambetta in the Straits of Otranto on the night of 26-27 April 1915



**Linienschiffsleutnant
Georg Ritter von Trapp**





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)

Austro-Hungarian Air Aces that received the Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

A number of Austrian Air Aces received the order of the Iron crown for their heroic service. The following is a list of the recipients of the order

Knight Third Class with war decoration and swords:

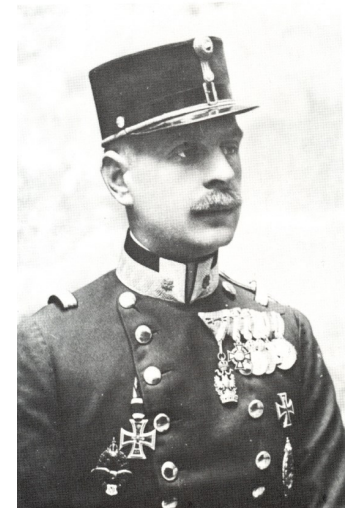
- Linienschiffsleutnant Gottfried von Banfield: 9 victories
- Oberleutnant in der Reserve Benno Fiala: 28 victories
- Hauptmann Johann Frint: 6 victories (KIFA 2/1918)
- Leutnant in der Reserve Ludwig Hautzmayer: 7 victories
- Hauptmann Adolf Heyrowsky: 12 air victories
- Hauptmann Heinrich Kostřba: 8 victories
- Leutnant in der Reserve Otto Jager (Posthumous, KIA 8/1917): 7 victories
- Hauptmann Otto Jindra: 9 victories
- Oberleutnant Georg Kenzian Edler von Kenzianshauksen: 9 victories
- Fregattenleutnant Freidrich Lang: 5 victories
- Oberleutnant Frank Linke-Crawford: 27 victories (KIA 7/1918)
- Hauptmann Josef von Maier: 7 victories
- Oberleutnant Freidrich Navratil: 10 victories
- Leutnant in der Reserve Kurt Nachod (Posthumous, KIA 5/1918) 5 victories
- Hauptmann Karl Nikitsch: 6 victories
- Oberleutnant Karl Patzelt: 5 victories (KIA 5/1918)
- Leutnant in der Reserve Franz Peter: 6 victories
- Leutnant in der Reserve Alois Rodlauer: 5 victories
- Leutnant in der Reserve Franz Rudorfer: 11 victories
- Oberleutnant Roman Schmidt: 6 victories
- Leutnant Rudolf Szepessy-Sokoll (Posthumous, KIA 11/1917) 5 victories
- Oberleutnant in der Reserve Ernst Strohschneider: 15 (KIFA 3/1918)
- Oberleutnant Rudolf Weber: 6 victories

Knight Third Class with war decoration:

- Hauptmann Godwin Brumowski: 35 Victories
- Hauptmann Raoul Stojasavljevic, 10 victories

Knight Third Class:

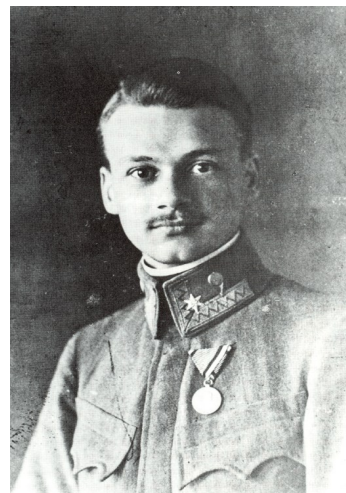
- Leutnant in der Reserve Franz Graser: 18 victories (KIA 5/1918)



Karl Nikitsch



Godwin Brumowski



Franz Graser





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)

The admission to the order occurred in a solemn ceremony. The recipients of the Knight First Class Order received their award documents in form of a book with an attached seal, Knights Second Class also received patents with an attached seal and Knights Third Class received a patent with an imprinted seal.



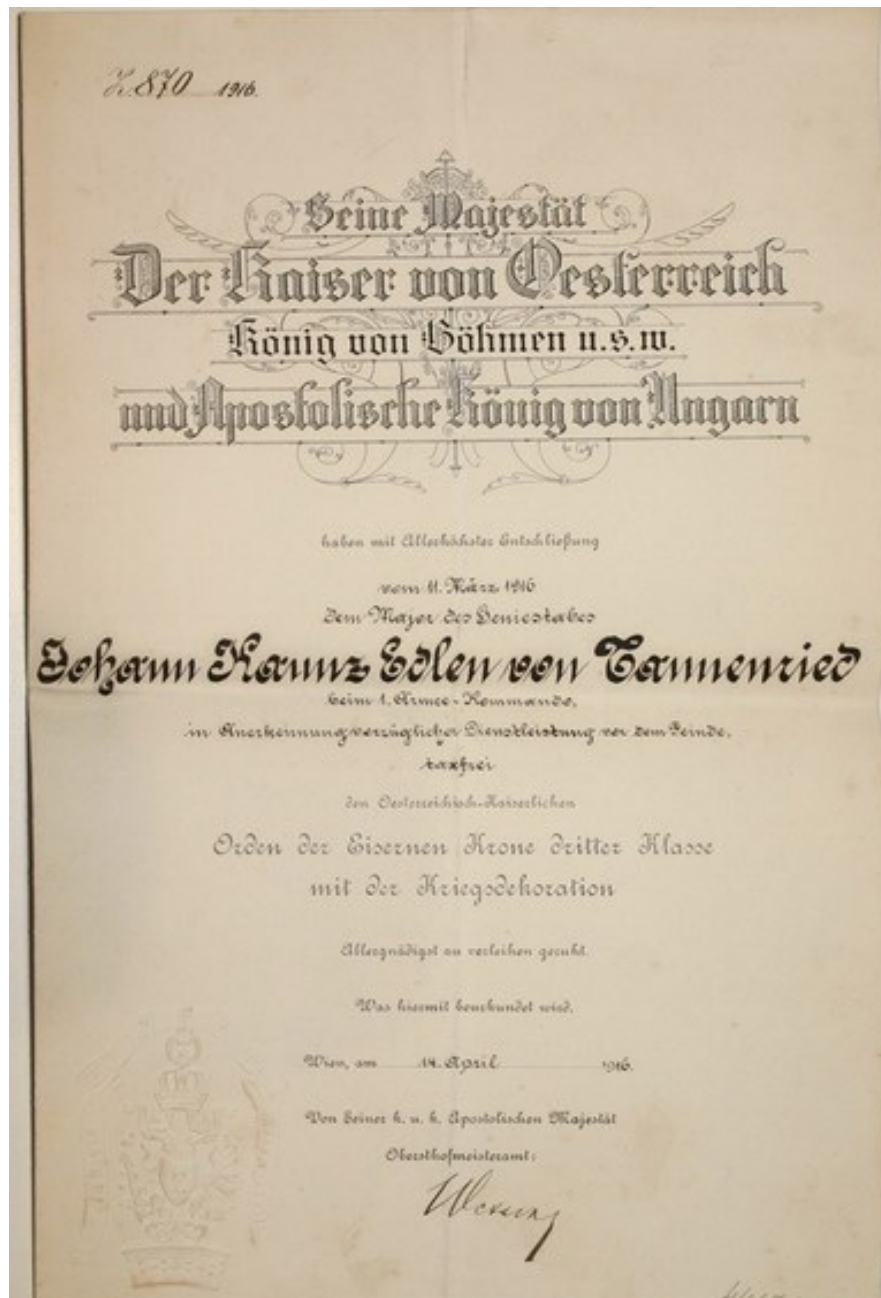
Knight Award Document

1896





Orders of Knighthood
Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown
(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown
Knight Third Class with war decoration
award document
To Johann Kaunz Edler von Tannenried
1916





Orders of Knighthood
Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown
(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown
Award document for the war decoration to the Knight Third Class
for
Franz Curick
1916





Orders of Knighthood
Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown
(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown
Knight First Class with war decoration
award document
to
Johann Ritter von Henriquez
1916





Orders of Knighthood
Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown
(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Emperor Franz Joseph
Wearing the Knight First Class star of the Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown as part of a four star arrangement worn only by the Emperor





Orders of Knighthood
Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown
(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Emperor Franz Joseph
Wearing the Knight First Class star of the Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown





Orders of Knighthood
Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown
(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Feldzeugmeister Johann Baptist Freiherr von Waldstatten
Wearing the Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown Knight First Class with war decoration of a lower class star





Orders of Knighthood
Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown
(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



General of Infantry Sandor Freiherr von Szurmay
Wearing the Order of the Iron Crown Knight first class star with war decoration and swords





Orders of Knighthood
Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown
(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Admiral Max Freiherr von Pitner
Wearing the Knight Second Class of the Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown





Orders of Knighthood
Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown
(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Metropolitan Miron Nikolic
Wearing the Knight Second Class of the Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown





Orders of Knighthood
Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown
(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



An Austrian Major
Wearing the Knight Second Class of the Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown
with war decoration and swords





Orders of Knighthood
Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown
(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Feldmarschalleutnant Otto Freiherr von Hartlieb
Wearing the Knight Third Class of the Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown





Orders of Knighthood
Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown
(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Captain Unger
Wearing the Knight Third Class of the Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown with war decoration
and swords





Orders of Knighthood
Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown
(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



General of Infantry Alfred Krauss
Wearing the Knight First Class with war decoration Kleine of the
Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown





Orders of Knighthood
Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown
(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Feldmarschalleutnant Alfred Freiherr von Waldstätten
Wearing the Knight Second Class with war decoration and swords of the
Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Collar of the Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown
Type II

Date Issued: From January 1, 1816 until November 11, 1918.

Reason Issued: This order was originally issued as an award for service in the Italian provinces of the Austrian Empire. Subsequently it became an award for service to the Austrian Empire and was issued to honor special civil or military merit or personal bravery. It was also intended as a general service order for Austrians for outstanding accomplishments. It was often awarded for service in the Italian portions of the Austrian Empire. It could be awarded to foreigners. The grade of this order, which was received, was often determined by the status of the recipient. It should be noted that during World War I the award tended to often be used as a bravery decoration for commissioned officers as opposed to its original function as an order for both distinguished military and civil service.

Classes or Types: The collar came in three types

- Collar of the Knight First class (1815-1918)
- Collar of the Knight First class with war decoration (A green enameled laurel wreath arising from the "Iron Crown" and following the counters of the eagle's wings.) (1860-1918)
- Collar of the Knight First class with war decoration and swords (A green enameled laurel wreath arising from the "iron crown" and following the counters of the eagle's wings.), and swords (crossed gold swords on the banderols of the imperial crown from which the badge is suspended) (1916-1918)





Orders of Knighthood
Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown
(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)
Collar of the Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown



Collar of the Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown
Type I

Image courtesy of Dorotheum





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



**Collar of the Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown with badge with war decoration
Type I**

Interesting Facts:

- The collar was to be returned to the order chancellery upon the death of the holder of the award

Hallmarks:

- The collar is hallmarked on every link and on the clasp
- 1872-1922 800 fine silver mark
- Vienna Assay Office 1866-1890 Mark
- All collars are numbered sequentially on the collar clasp (numbers up to 259 are known to exist)
- The weight of the collar without badge is also engraved on the clasp

Design: On ceremonial occasions the First Class Knights of the Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown wore a golden collar which consists gold links composed of four types: a gold oval oak wreath; a gold enameled Iron Crown, a gold monogram **F.P** (Franciscus Primus) and a larger center oak wreath with crossed palm frond and oak bough in gold from which the grand cross badge is suspended. At one end of the collar is a round button and at the other a wedge shaped clasp





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Collar of the Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown with badge with war decoration and swords Type I

Obverse: The collar of the order is composed of 36 links. The links come in 12 groups of three. The first link in each group is a 30 by 38 mm gold oval oak wreath. The second link is 33 by 13 mm gold enameled Iron Crown and the third is a 30 by 32 mm gold monogram **F.P** (Franciscus Primus). The center link of the collar from which hangs the Knight, First Class badge is composed of an oak wreath with crossed palm frond and oak bough in gold. It is 58 by 40 mm in size. The badge, which is attached to the collar, is 40 by 75 mm including the crown. At one end of the collar is a button and at the other a wedge shaped clasp for fastening the collar.





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Collar of the Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown
Type III

Reverse: The reverse is the same as the obverse except that the suspension link has a clip for suspending the badge

Weight:

- 1815-1838: 143 ducats (499 grams)
- 1838-1918: 102 ducats (356)

Size: Collars exist which are 131 to 138 cm in length.

Type of Material: Gold, gold and enamel, silver, gilt plated and bronze gilt for museum exhibition

Variations:

- Type I: collar as described
- Type II Collar: as described except with 38 links. The extra link is a second suspension link (an oak wreath with crossed palm frond and oak bough in gold) the badge is suspended between the two suspension links (see example on page 337)
- Type III: Collar similar to Type I except the crown links are not enameled





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)

Designer/manufacturer:

- Ignatz Joseph and Irma Schmidt (original collars, 1815-1838)
- Joseph Domhart (After 1838)
- Rothe and Neffe (Circa 1850 and thereafter)
- Vincent Mayers and sons (miniature collar)

Number Issued: 20 collars were issued at any one time

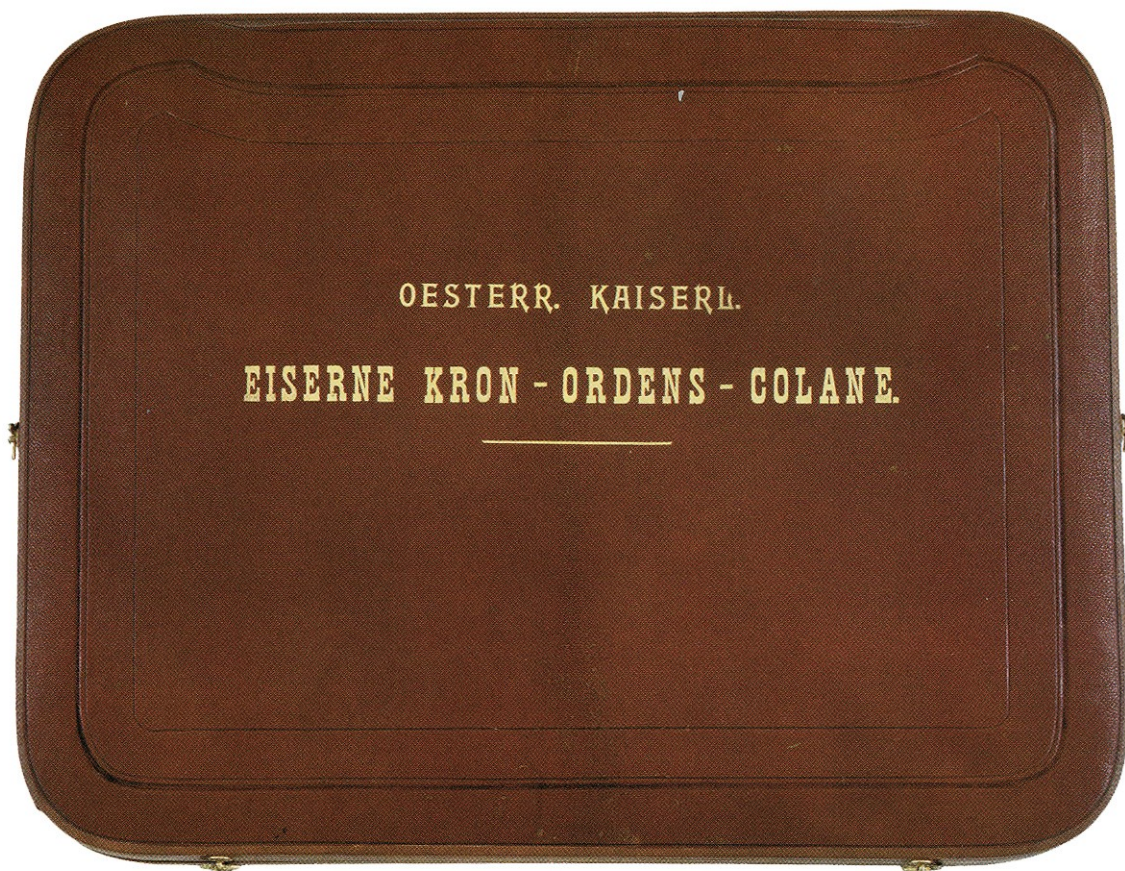
Case: A large rectangular case (Width 37.7 mm, Height 29.2 mm, and maximum depth 5.3 m) with a brown leather cover. The cover is engraved in gold with the following inscription: **OESTERR. KAISERL. EISERNE. KRON-ORDENS-COLANE** (see next page). The case has a dark violet-blue fitted velvet liner. The inner lid is lined in silk with a yellow-gold makers mark: **ROTHER & NEFFE WIEN K.u.K KAMMER-JUWELIERE**





Orders of Knighthood
Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown
(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)

Case:





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Ribbon: None.

Attachments: None

Miniature: There are collar miniatures in the form of miniature chains similar to those for the Order of Leopold and Franz Joseph.





Orders of Knighthood
Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown
(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Feldzeugmeister Johann Freiherr von Wacquant-Geozelles
Wearing the Type I Collar of the Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Medal of the Order Officials

Date Issued: February 12, 1816-1918

Reason Issued: To signify that the wearer was an order official: Types of officials:

- Order Prelate, Who was selected from the highest ranking clergy in the empire and who officiates at the order celebrations and religious ceremonies
- Chancellor of the Order, who manages the affairs of the order, admits new members to the order, Issues order decrees and possesses the seal of the order
- Order Treasurer, oversees the orders finances and treasury including orders and formal garments
- Order Secretary, who supervised the keeping of the history of the order, the order archive, wrote diplomas and all other order documents.
- Order Harold, maintains the order coat of arms
- Chancellery Clerk, who provided support for all other order officials

Classes or Types: The medal came in one class

Interesting Facts:

- The last order Greffier was Joseph Freiherr von Margegan in 1918

Hallmarks: Unknown

Design: A round medal with a raised edge and an inscription and wreath in the outer ring. In the center of the medal is the image of the order 1816– 1830 badge





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



Medal of the Order Officials, reverse

Obverse: A round medal with a raised edge and an inscription **AVITA ET AUCTA** (Ancient and Getting Better) on the lower portion of the outer ring. In the upper portion of the same ring as the inscription is a wreath composed of three boughs: Palm, Oak and Laurel. In the center of the medal within a raised ring is rests a depiction of the obverse image of the 1816-1830 order badge.

Reverse: Plain metal

Weight: Unknown

Size:

- Type I: 66 mm in diameter
- Type II: 62.5 mm in diameter

Type of Material:

- Type I: Gold,
- Type II: Gold and enamel

Variations:

- Type I: Medal as described above (1816– circa 1860)
- Type II: The same as Type I except that the background in the center of the badge is in blue enamel. Also the arrangement of the text and symbols in the upper portion of the outer ring is as follows: (starting in the 9 o'clock position) **AVITA ET AUCTA**. At the bottom of the outer ring is crossed Palm and Laurel bough with a round oak wreath superimposed over the point where they cross. Circa 1860-1918

Designer/manufacturer: Unknown

Number Issued: Six

Case: Maroon grained simulated leather or leather with the letters with an inscription in gold on the lid. The inside of the lid is white satin and often has the logo of the maker in gold. The inside of the lower lid is fitted with plush fawn, gray, or black colored velveteen.

Ribbon: A 40 mm golden yellow ribbon with blue edge stripes





Orders of Knighthood
Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown
(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone)



**Josef Freiherr von Mardegani, who held the positions of Herald and Treasurer
of the Order of the Iron Crown wearing the officials medal**

Attachments: None

Miniature: Miniatures of the Type II medal

Notable Recipients:

- Franz I Emperor of Austria, 1816 – 1838
- Ferdinand I Emperor of Austria, 1838 – 1848
- Franz Joseph I Emperor of Austria-Hungary, 1848 – 1916
- Karl I Emperor of Austria-Hungary, 1916 – 1918

Award Documents: Unknown





Orders of Knighthood

Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown, Military Merit Medal

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone, Militärische Verdienstmedaille)



Date Issued: February 12, 1816-1827

Reason Issued: To replace the older order insignia of the Napoleonic Order of the Iron Crown. Because many NCOs and soldier were holders of the order, a silver medal was coined for them, the so called PRO VIRTUTE MILITARI, (for military virtue). The medal was issued, when the emperor came into Milan to award the new order insignia.

Classes or Types: The medal came in one type

Interesting Facts:

- Those who had received the French Order of the Iron Crown were required to turn it in to receive this award.
- The ribbon used for this medal was adopted by Napoleon III in 1852 for the French Medaille Militaire.
- February 12, 1816 was the Emperor's birthday
- Reproduction medals were created after WWI which were thinner than the originals (2.5 mm)

Hallmarks: Unknown

Design: A round medal with a raised rim and an attached eye at right angles to the medal.

Obverse: Inside a raised rim is an upward pointing sword on a plain field.

Reverse: Inside a raised rim is an inscription in three lines: **PRO/ VIRTUTE/ MILITARI** (For Military Virtue)

Weight: 30 grams

Size: 37.5 mm in diameter and 3.5 mm thick

Type of Material: Silver

Variations:

- Type I: As described above
- Type II: A bronze gilt version. This is an unofficial medal
- Type III: A gold version of this medal. This is an unofficial medal

Designer/manufacturer: Unknown

Number Issued: 175 medals were manufactured and 85 were issued

Order of Precedence: Not listed in the 1918 Order of Precedence

Case: Unknown

Ribbon: A 38 mm golden lemon yellow ribbon with 6 mm green edge stripes





Orders of Knighthood
Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown,
Military Merit Medal

(Österreichisch-Kaiserlicher Orden der Eisernen Krone, Militärische Verdienstmedaille)



Attachments: None
Miniature: None known

